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CIVIL REPORT,
1883.

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL JUSTICE

IN THE

PUNJAB AND ITS DEPENDENCIES

DURING THE YEAR

1883

Published by Authority

LAHORE:

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1884.

Proceedings of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, in the Home (Judicial) Department,—No. 1025, dated 24th November 1884.

Read—

The Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Punjab for the year 1883.

REMARKS.—The year 1883 shows the largest number of institutions on record, the number of original suits filed in all the Civil Courts being 260,968. This number is 39,113 in excess of that for 1873, and 14,723 more than in 1878. The years of large increase have been 1876, 1878 and 1880, and, in the intervening years, the increase of the preceding year has, in each case, been closely maintained: the average for the years 1880, 1881, and 1882 was 255,585. The number of suits instituted in 1882 was so large that the present increase, as compared with that year, is very slight, amounting to only 4,916 cases, or 1·8 per cent. These figures show that the general tendency of the litigation of the Province to increase still continues, while there is nothing abnormal about the figures for 1883.

2. Of the total number of suits instituted, 21,153 were filed in the District and Cantonment Small Cause Courts. This number was exceeded in the years 1876 (22,536) and 1878 (23,168), but is somewhat in excess of the average for the past eight years (20,219). In the District Courts the number of institutions in 1883 stood at 239,814, the highest previously reached being 237,921. Over a fourth of the litigation of the Province is accounted for by the four districts of Hoshiárpur, Siálkot, Amritsar and Lahore, in which the figures vary very slightly from those of the preceding year.

3. The increase has been highest in Bannu, Mooltan and Jhelum. In Bannu the increase amounted to 42 per cent., and has necessitated the appointment of a second Munsiff to the district since August 1883. The reason given for this increase is that, during the early part of the year, the Munsiff who visits Lakki only received a certain number of petitions, referring the remaining petitioners to the Courts at head-quarters,—the result being that intending suitors kept back their plaints. When, in March, the Munsiff was directed to receive all plaints, there was a rush of cases, and since then the average number of institutions has continued to be higher than usual. It is obvious from this result that the practice of limiting the number of petitions taken by the Munsiff, at his monthly visitations to Lakki, must have continued for some considerable time, and it is difficult to understand why the Deputy Commissioner did not take steps to remove the inconvenience to the people at an earlier date.

In Jhelum the increase of 24 per cent. is attributed to a comparatively healthy season. In some other districts, where there has been a smaller increase, the reason assigned is that the season was unfavourable. The same reason is given for a decrease in the number of cases in several districts. In Hazára the decrease is attributed to agricultural prosperity; the report for the year 1880 shows that the same reason was then assigned for an increase in the number of institutions. The fact is that there may be considerable fluctuations in the amount of litigation, from year to year, without any very important assignable reason; while, in certain cases, it may be the result of good or bad seasons, the state of trade, the unsatisfactory action of the Courts, or of defects in the law. The object of requiring District Officers to report on the subject is lost unless some intelligent care is taken to ascertain the real causes which are influencing the course of litigation from time to time.

No explanation is offered for the increase of 26 per cent. in the number of cases filed in the Mooltan District; the increase is chiefly in small causes and suits for rent. It ought not to have been difficult to ascertain the reason for so very large a fluctuation.

4. The bulk of the litigation of the Province consists of small causes, which represent 81 per cent. of the whole. It may be observed that the number of these cases was 213,895 in the year under review; while in 1880 it was 213,987. There would thus seem to be a mistake in the statement made in paragraph 9 of the Judges' report, where it is said that the number of these cases in 1883. was the highest on record.

5. The number of suits brought by shop-keepers and bankers against agriculturists has again fallen; there was a substantial decrease in the previous year. This is satisfactory if it is not the result of erroneous classification. The percentage of these cases was highest in the Shahpur District, in which it is stated that instances have occurred of agriculturists being somewhat severely pressed by money-lenders. The attention of Government has been drawn to the subject in separate correspondence.

6. In para. 9, and again in para. 12 of their report, the Judges remark upon the defective classification of suits. The Judges think that a careful observance of the instructions issued in 1878 should result in a nearer approach to accuracy, but that not much improvement is noticeable so far. The Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor is glad to learn that the subject is receiving the attention of the Judges. It is of importance that not only the classification of suits, but the whole of the Civil statistics should be more accurately prepared by District Officers; that a sufficient check should be exercised over their compilation, and that they should not be left entirely to the subordinate ministerial staff. His Honor hopes that District Officers will comply more fully with the requisitions of the Chief Court in regard to securing correct returns of Civil business. The task is not an easy one, but if the returns are occasionally checked by a superior officer in each district, more accuracy will be ensured.

7. The average value of the Civil litigation is, as usual, exceedingly low, being Rs. 63 in 1883, against Rs. 64 in the preceding year. In the class of small causes the average value was only Rs. 57. Of 211,786 cases only 2,742 exceeded Rs. 300 in value. These figures confirm the remarks made in reviewing the report for 1882 on the petty nature of the vast mass of litigation in this Province. The increase in the number of Munsiffs and the introduction of the Punjab Courts Act will have the effect of relieving the superior Civil Courts and Tahsíldárs of most of this class of cases. The finality of the first appeal in the majority of those cases will also greatly relieve the higher Appellate Courts. The result will be to redistribute the Civil business in a more satisfactory and systematic manner by making the lower Courts do the whole of the work for which they have been created. The Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that, subject to any modifications which may be necessary in consequence of the Judicial reorganization just effected, the Judges will now be able to carry into effect more fully the principles, under which the distribution of Civil business is to be effected, which were set out in para. 49 of their Report for 1881, and which are again mentioned in para. 17 of the present Report. The Munsiffs' Courts did 81 per cent. of this class of litigation as against 62 in 1882, and they disposed of 60 per cent. of the whole Civil work as against 56 in the previous year. Tahsíldárs did somewhat less than in that year, and the superior Courts were also considerably relieved. This was satisfactory, and the Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Judges in thinking that the distribution of business was better arranged in 1883 than in the two previous years.

8. The number of suits for disposal, including pending and re-admitted cases, stood at 288,772, which was 3,073 in excess of 1882. The percentage disposed of was the same in both years, *viz.*, 94·4. This appears to be satisfactory.

The percentage of cases decided without trial or without contest was 67, being nearly the same as in the previous year. A large proportion of these cases, no doubt, occupy much time and attention on the part of the Courts before they are disposed of, and they thus represent much real work; still it would appear that the Courts are resorted to as a method of registering claims or of giving notice of demand. It is a question whether means could not be devised for encouraging the giving of such notice, before suits are filed, by an agency apart from the regular judicial machinery. Such a system might possibly tend to reduce litigation of a petty kind.

9. The Honorary Civil Courts have again done a large amount of work, and have earned the acknowledgments of the Lieutenant-Governor. Sardár Ajít Singh, Sardár Bahádur Sodhi Mán Singh, and Sardár Dyál Singh are entitled to special commendation.

10. The method of disposal yields very similar results from year to year. Thirty-one per cent. are shown as contested; 71 per cent. of the contested cases were decided in favour of the plaintiff. The uncontested cases were disposed of as follows:—

18 per cent went by default.
1 „ „ was withdrawn.
22 „ „ were compromised.
16 „ „ decreed on confession.
10 „ „ went *ex-parte*.
1 „ „ was referred to arbitration.

The Courts seem to have shown a satisfactory readiness to re-admit cases thrown out on default, though the percentage of such applications which were successful is slightly lower than in the two previous years. The proportion of dismissals on default was highest in Muzaffargarh and Mooltan, but in these districts the applications for restoration were few, and the figures point, in the opinion of the Judges, to private settlement out of Court in a large proportion of cases. This explanation does not apply to the districts of Gujránwála, Shahpur and Jhang, in which the number reaches 25 per cent., and the Lieutenant-Governor is glad to know that the Judges are enquiring into the matter. Many causes of an altogether satisfactory character may tend to a high percentage of dismissals on default, but it is necessary to guard against the use, by the Courts, of this method of disposal in a manner inconvenient to the people.

11. In regard to the miscellaneous Civil business, there has been a general increase. These cases comprise objections to attached property; pauper applications; review applications; applications for foreclosure of mortgages on conditional sale; applications relating to the guardianship of minors or lunatics; and applications to collect debts due to the estates of deceased persons, or to administer such estates.

As to the collection of the debts due to the estates of deceased persons and the management of minors' estates, the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that the number of applications is exceedingly small in proportion to the population. There must surely be more than 358 minors whose fathers have died, during the year, leaving property. Similarly, there were only 525 applications for certificates under Act XXVII of 1860 enabling the holders to collect debts due to the estates of deceased persons The Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor would like to know whether, in the opinion of the Judges, sufficient provision is now made, in this Province, for protecting the property of minors from waste and dissipation at the hands of their friends and relatives, who fail to obtain certificates, and thus to take upon themselves the legal responsibilities and liabilities, as well as the powers, of a manager of the minor's property. It is observed that Acts XIX of 1841 and XL of 1858 make provision for the appointment of a curator where necessary.

12. It is satisfactory to note that the number of commissions for local investigation has decreased, and that the average cost of such commissions has fallen. It is, of course, highly desirable that local inquiry should be made in disputes affecting immoveable property; but there has been an impression that some Courts have used the provisions as to the issue of commissions, as a means of relieving themselves of a considerable proportion of their own legitimate work.

13. The Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor recognizes with satisfaction the efforts which have been made by the Judges to meet the evil effects of the practice of allowing high rates of interest during the pendency of a suit and after decree. The Commissioner of Ráwalpindi drew attention to the action of certain Courts in his Division in this matter, and the correspondence has been carefully considered by the Judges and by the Government. The Judges have done their best to control the action of the subordinate Courts by their Circulars, explaining the meaning of Section 375, Civil Procedure Code, and the rulings relating to agriculturists, and it is to be hoped that the Courts will be careful to be guided by the spirit of these instructions.

In regard to interest before suit filed, the Lieutenant-Governor believes that the Courts will take pains to follow the ruling of the Chief Court by which, in suits against agriculturists, the Courts are enabled to assume the absence of free consent where the contract rate of interest is exorbitant or improvident, and to reduce the interest to an equitable amount. The views expressed by the Judges in paragraph 104 of the Report have been generally approved in the separate correspondence.

14. The average duration of cases seems, upon the whole, to have been satisfactory; but it was very high in the Courts of the Deputy Commissioner of Jhang and the Judicial Assistants of Delhi, Hoshiárpur, and three other districts. The Judges will doubtless deal with each of these cases as may be proper; but it seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that the Deputy Commissioner of Jhang might have tendered some explanation of the high average of 299 days in his Court. No doubt there are special reasons for the delay, and the fact that there is no Judicial Assistant at Jhang may, as suggested by the Judges, account for it; nevertheless the cause should have been stated by the Deputy Commissioner for the satisfaction of the Chief Court and of the Government. Under the new scheme a Subordinate Judge with appellate powers has been posted to the Jhang District.

15 The pending file was in a satisfactory state, representing between 5 and 6 per cent. of the cases for disposal. The number of long-pending cases was small, and has been satisfactorily explained.

16. The returns showing the work of execution of decrees do not compare favourably with those of previous years, the number of wholly infructuous applications having risen from 39 to 42 per cent. Many applications shown as infructuous are probably filed with the sole object of keeping alive decrees, while many others are dropped, after the first steps have been taken, owing to private arrangement; still it would appear that in a large number of cases the applications are struck off somewhat summarily, the decree-holder being left to revive proceedings by a fresh application. The number of applications was considerably higher than in 1882, while the pending file was lower by one case at the end of the year than at the beginning. The work has, on the whole, been fairly well disposed of. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to notice that the returns of the Gurdáspur District, which have been received since the close of the year, show an improvement over the state of business during 1883.

17. The returns show only 8 sales of hereditary or joint-acquired property in land during the year, as against 32 in 1882; but it appears that the Chief Court gave its sanction to such sales in 42 cases, and that the discrepancy is under enquiry.

18. The amount of insolvency work, under Chapter XX of the Procedure Code, has not been large, and the general results of the working appear to have been satisfactory. The repeal of the provisions of Sections 22 to 33 of Act IV of 1872, which at present provide an alternative insolvency procedure, has been porposed in the Punjab Laws Bill which is now under consideration.

19. There has been a general increase in the number of witnesses who appeared, whether voluntarily or upon issue of summons; 76 per cent. of the witnesses received their expenses. A similar increase is shown in the Small Cause Court returns. The Amritsar Small Cause Court returns show that every witness for whom a summons was issued received an allowance for expenses, and the same result was shown in 1882, and was animadverted on by the Judges, and it was then remarked that the figures were probably incorrect. The Judges now consider that the result is scarcely credible. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that the Judge at Amritsar will be called upon for a proper explanation.

20. The general working of the Small Cause Courts was satisfactory; it is noticeable that only 30 per cent. of the cases were contested.

21. The results of the execution business in these courts were good, the wholly infructuous applications amounting to only 25 per cent. of the whole. The Lahore Court shows the best returns in this respect.

The Cantonment Small Cause Courts have also worked well.

22. The appellate work in District and Divisional Courts was somewhat greater than in the preceding year. The manner in which it was disposed of calls for no detailed remarks, the results being very much as usual. The pending files in Ludhiána and Gujrát were very high both in 1882 and in 1883. In Ludhiána there was a very large increase in the number of appeals.

A very large proportion of the appeals were in small causes under Rs. 100 in value. One thousand one hundred twenty-seven out of 1,429 appeals in money suits were under Rs. 500 in value in the Divisional Courts; and 7,682 out of 7,840 in District Courts.

23. In the Chief Court the appellate work has increased by nearly 50 per in seven years. The number disposed of has also increased, and the pending file has been reduced by 200 cases. Applications for revision show a large increase.

24. While this Report has been under consideration, the Punjab Courts Bill, the object of which is to give effect to the scheme for the reorganization, on improved lines, of the Judicial administration of the Province, has become law. The general effect of the changes will, as has already been pointed out, be to relieve the superior Courts of original jurisdiction of such Civil business as can be equally well done by an inferior agency, and so to enable them to deal more satisfactorily with more important classes of work. The great mass of petty litigation will thus be in the hands of Munsiffs, who will be able to devote their whole time and energies to this work alone. There can be no doubt that such an arrangement will result in an improvement in the way in which civil suits are decided. It is not too much to expect that officers who do nothing but civil judicial business will be able to master the details of the particular laws, which it is their duty to administer, more thoroughly than if they were also required to become acquainted with the intricacies of Criminal and Revenue Law. The number of Munsiffs is now at a strength which will, it is hoped, not only lead to the relief of the superior Courts of original jurisdiction, but will also more largely relieve Tahsíldárs of Civil business. The first duty of these officers is to perform their Revenue functions, and it will now be possible to demand from them a more thorough and careful discharge of those duties than has hitherto been the case.

25. In regard to appeals there is no reason to suppose that the changes about to be introduced will injuriously affect litigants. The appeal in small causes, not exceeding Rs. 500 in value, now lies to the District Judge, whose order will be final,

except as regards revision and review. This arrangement merely gives to the orders of the District Judge, passed on appeal, the extent of finality which is now vested in Small Cause Courts, in original cases, and which has already been applied, in the District Courts, in cases not exceeding Rs. 50 in value. The suitor will thus have the benefit, if he should desire it, of a decision by two Courts, whereas in Small Cause Courts the first decree is in itself final. Heretofore where the first Court and first appellate Court agree, there has been an appeal, in certain cases, to the Chief Court, and where they disagree, to the Divisional Court. This system not only leads to great expense to suitors, but is also obviously unnecessary in suits for small debts.

26. In all other cases litigants will be relieved of an intermediate appeal, and will be able, in cases not exceeding Rs. 5,000 in value, to resort, in the first instance, to the Divisional Court, and in cases over Rs. 5,000 in value to the Chief Court direct,—a further appeal being allowed to the Chief Court from the Divisional Court in all cases exceeding Rs. 500 in value, and in other cases whenever the decree is passed by a single Judge and varies or reverses the order of the first Court, or, where there is a Bench, whenever there is not a majority of Judges in favour of the order on appeal, or whenever a question of law or custom or of general interest is involved and a Judge of the Divisional Court considers the case of sufficient importance to justify such an appeal. These provisions are sufficiently wide to allow a second appeal in all cases in which the ends of justice render it desirable. Thus, instead of the expense of carrying an appeal through three Courts, it will only pass through two, the second of which will consist of two Judges in all cases in which it is intended to disturb the order of the Court below, and in which it is proposed to give finality to the decision; while this finality is limited to cases not exceeding Rs. 500 in value. The Lieutenant-Governor entertains a confident hope that a brief experience will satisfy the public of the substantial improvement in the administration of Civil justice which has been introduced. The cost of litigation will, he believes, be much reduced; and suits will be terminated finally in a much shorter time than is now possible.

27. In conclusion, the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor desires to convey his acknowledgments to the Judges for the advice and assistance tendered by them to the Government during the year, as well as for the efficient control which they have exercised over the action of the subordinate Courts, in addition to the discharge of their heavy judicial functions.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of the Review be furnished to the Registrar of the Chief Court for the information of the Judges and for circulation with the Report.

Ordered also that the remarks be published in the *Punjab Government Gazette.*

By order of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor,

C. L. TUPPER,

Offg. Secretary to Government, Punjab.

Punjab Govt. Press, Lahore—25-11-84—328.

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Part I.—Civil original Cases.
Part II.—Miscellaneous Cases.

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No. 4.—Statement showing the general result of the trial of civil cases.

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No. 6.—Statement showing the result of proceedings in execution of decree.

No. 7.—Proceedings in insolvency under Chapter XX of the Civil Procedure Code.

Part I.—Showing the number and result of applications under Section 344 and the number of insolvents before the Court.

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REVIEW OF HIS HONOR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF THE PUNJAB.

No. 1378.

FROM

T. GORDON WALKER, ESQUIRE,
Officiating Registrar, Chief Court, Punjab,

TO

C. L. TUPPER, ESQUIRE,
Officiating Secretary to Government, Punjab.

Dated Lahore, the 28th May 1884.

SIR,

I am directed by the Judges to submit the following report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Punjab during the year 1883.

Form of report and statements.

2. The report has been drawn up on the same plan as that submitted last year, and the statements in the Appendix are similar in form to those appended to the report for the year 1882.

PART I.—ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

A.—INSTITUTION OF SUITS.

Number of suits instituted.

3. The number of original suits instituted in all the Civil Courts of the Punjab during the year 1883 was 260,968. These figures represent an increase of 4,916 cases, or 1·8 per cent., over the institutions of the previous year, an increase of 14,723 cases, or nearly 6 per cent., over the institutions in 1878, and an increase of 39,113 cases, or more than 17 per cent., if the comparison be made with the figures for 1873.

Fluctuations in the different classes of Courts.

4. The institutions for the past five years in the different classes of Courts are shown in the annexed table :—

CLASS OF COURT	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883
Chief Court	4	2	1	1	1
Divisional Courts	...	...	4	3	...
District Courts of general jurisdiction ...	225,841	237,921	236,069	236,147	239,814
District Small Cause Courts	11,695	12,497	12,438	12,942	13,537
Cantonment Small Cause Courts ...	6,647	5,595	6,178	6,959	7,616
TOTAL ...	244,187	256,015	254,690	256,052	260,968

It will be sufficient here to notice that the number of institutions in District Courts of general jurisdiction is the highest on record. The increase of litigation in District and Cantonment Courts of Small Causes will be noticed in the section dealing with the work of those Courts.

Districts which show the largest number of institutions.

5. The following four districts show the largest numbers of institutions, and account for over 25 per cent. of the entire litigation of the Province :—

Hoshiárpur	16,805
Siálkot	16,340
Amritsar	16,199
Lahore	16,153

The figures of the Hoshiárpur, Siálkot and Lahore Districts are rather lower, and those of Amritsar slightly above, the figures of the preceding year.

Districts in which litigation increased.

6. Seventeen districts show an increase of litigation as compared with the year 1882, and the increase exceeded 10 per cent. in the six noted below :—

Bannu	42 per cent.
Mooltan	26 „
Jhelum	24 „
Montgomery	19 „
Dera Ghází Khan	13 „
Shahpur	11 „

The large increase in Bannu chiefly occurred in suits on unregistered bonds, and especially in suits of this description brought by bankers and shopkeepers against agriculturists. It first attracted notice in the early months of the year, and was explained at the time to be due to the Munsiff having been in the habit of only taking a certain number of petitions during his monthly visits to Lakki. When this number was complete, suitors were told that they must either take their plaints to the Sadr or wait for the Munsiff's return next month. On the Deputy Commissioner giving orders that the Munsiff should take all plaints which might be presented to him, over 500 fresh suits were instituted in his court in February, and a very large number in March. Since August two Munsiffs have been at work in the Bannu District, and the work is now well in hand, though institutions still keep above the average of previous years.

The Deputy Commissioner of Mooltan can assign no reason for the increase in his district, which chiefly manifested itself in small causes and suits for arrears of rent.

In Jhelum the increase is attributed by the Deputy Commissioner to a comparatively healthy season, and also to the appointment of a Munsiff for Pind Dádan Khan. The last cause, however, does not seem to have affected the figures, as a Munsiff was not posted to Pind Dádan Khan until October, and the increase during the last quarter of the year was not more marked than it had been in the nine preceding months.

The increases in Montgomery and Dera Ghází Khan are said to be due to unfavorable seasons. That in Shahpur would seem to merely indicate that the causes—general sickness was assigned as the chief cause—which led to a decrease of 11 per cent. in 1882 were not present last year.

Districts in which decrease was largest.

7. Three districts show a falling-off in institutions of over 10 per cent., *viz.*—

Hissar	13 per cent.
Rohtak	12 „
Hazára	12 „

The decrease in Hissar and Rohtak is attributed to bad harvests, and a similar explanation is given for slighter fallings-off in Gurgaon and Karnál. In Gurgaon, the decrease in suits was, the Deputy Commissioner points out, partly counterbalanced by a large increase in the number of applications to the Court to issue notices of foreclosure. In Hazára the decrease is attributed by the Deputy Commissioner to agricultural prosperity, but the Commissioner notes that trade was generally slack throughout the Pesháwar Division, and thinks this may have affected the Hazára returns, as also those of the Kohát District, where the high figures of the previous year were not quite maintained.

B.—Classification of Suits.

Institutions of 1882 and 1883 classified.

8. A detailed classification of the suits which were instituted last year will be found in Statement No. 2 in the Appendix. A more concise classification has been adopted in the subjoined table, and the figures of last year are compared with those of the two preceding years :—

	Description of Suits	1881	1882	1883
I.—Suits for money or moveables.	On registered bond	5,023	4,132	3,567
	On unregistered bond	88,259	86,617	87,821
	Otherwise than on bond	96,316	96,173	101,120
	For rent other than of land	3,050	2,984	2,859
	For moveable property or value thereof ...	16,327	16,624	13,410
	For damages	1,398	1,291	3,230
	Other suits	2,594	1,671	1,888
	Total ...	212,967	209,492	213,895
II.—Rent suits and suits under the Punjab Tenancy Act.	For arrears of rent	5,933	7,160	7,455
	To establish or contest rights of occupancy ...	796	1,151	856
	For enhancement or abatement of rent ...	640	821	1,216
	Connected with ejectment	994	1,579	1,717
	Other suits	537	376	443
	Total ...	8,900	11,087	11,687
III.—Other suits.	For immoveable property	19,629	21,169	21,471
	For a declaration of right	1,944	2,024	1,990
	For specific performance	268	214	236
	Relating to betrothals, marriage, divorce and dower	4,971	4,972	4,815
	For or relating to partition	258	260	191
	Relating to revenue	3,578	4,637	5,014
	Other suits	2,177	2,197	1,669
	Total ...	32,825	35,473	35,386
	Grand Total ...	254,692	256,052	260,968

Suits for money or moveables.

9. Suits for money or moveable property, that is, suits of a nature cognizable by a Court of Small Causes, constituted last year more than 81 per cent. of the entire civil litigation of the Province. The figures are the highest on record, exceeding those of 1881, which most nearly approach them, by 928 cases. Since 1873 this class of litigation has increased by 43,958 cases, or 26 per cent.

Turning to details, suits on registered bonds were fewer than ever, and suits on unregistered bonds rather more numerous than in the previous year, but fewer than in any earlier year since 1880. The remaining heads—except suits for non-agricultural rent—show some remarkable differences, which are certainly in part due to erroneous classification. Steps were taken in 1878 to bring about greater accuracy in this matter, but not much improvement is noticeable so far. Perfect accuracy in details is, no doubt, not to be hoped for from the agency which has to be employed on the work of classification and compilation, but a nearer approach to accuracy should, the Judges think, result from a careful observance of the instructions issued in 1878. The matter will be dealt with by the Court administratively in connection with the returns of individual districts.

The suits in this class were distributed between the different denominations of Courts as under. The distribution of the two preceding years is also given for purposes of comparison.

	Percentage.		
	1881	1882	1883
Superior Courts of general jurisdiction ...	14	13	11
Small Cause Courts	9	10	10
Tahsíldárs' Courts	10	7	6
Náib-Tahsíldárs' Courts		3	1
Munsiffs' Courts	63	62	68
Honorary Courts	4	5	4

10. Class II shows an increase of 5 per cent. over the institutions of the previous year, and of 31 per cent. over the institutions of 1881. The greater part of the increase appears in suits for arrears of rent from tenants without rights of occupancy, the number of which rose from 5,517 to 6,064. Suits to recover arrears from tenants with rights of occupancy fell from 1,643 to 1,391, but in Delhi the number rose from 52 to 101, in Sirsa from 87 to 166, in Jhelum from 82 to 133, and in Mooltan from 4 to 70.

Suits for rent and under the Punjab Tenancy Act.

Suits under the Punjab Tenancy Act numbered 3,927 in 1882 and 4,232 last year. The falling-off in suits to establish or contest rights of occupancy was most conspicuous in the districts of Sirsa, Karnál, Gurgaon and Pesháwar. Suits for enhancement of rent rose from 751 to 1,199, and were most numerous in the Ludhiána, Rohtak and Hoshiárpur Districts. Suits by tenants for abatement of rent fell from 70 to 17. Suits connected with the law of ejectment increased by 8 per cent., and in both years suits by tenants to contest notices of ejectment formed by far the largest item under this head.

The annexed table shows how suits in this class were distributed in the past and two previous years :—

	Percentage.		
	1881	1882	1883
Superior Courts of general jurisdiction ...	29	26	20
Tahsíldárs' Courts	46	44	50
Náib-Tahsíldárs' Courts		3	2
Munsiffs' Courts	22	25	26
Honorary Courts	3	2	2

11. Suits in class III do not call for much remark. A decrease in the number of matrimonial causes in the Muzaffargarh District is attributed by the local authorities to a system of registration of marriages by Mullahs which was introduced by Mr. Macauliffe in 1880 and afterwards made more stringent by Mr. Gladstone. It does not appear, however, that matrimonial causes were ever very numerous in the Muzaffargarh District, and there is not now any very striking difference between the figures returned from Muzaffargarh and the returns of the other districts of the Mooltan Division. The increase in suits relating to the revenue is said to be, to some extent, due to the Financial Commissioner having ruled that when a headman has paid the revenue due from a co-proprietor, he can only proceed against him by way of regular suit. Formerly, it would seem that assistance was often given by the revenue authorities in such cases.

Other suits.

Suits in class III were distributed in the following manner during the past three years :—

	Percentage.		
	1881	1882	1883
Sadr Courts of general jurisdiction ...	29	41	36
Tahsíldárs' Courts ...	46	29	31
Náib-Tahsíldárs' Courts ...		2	1
Munsiffs' Courts ...	22	26	29
Honorary Courts ...	3	2	3

12. The number of suits brought by shopkeepers and bankers against agriculturists was 98,411, as against 102,506 in the previous year, being a decrease of over 4 per cent. The subjoined table shows the number of such suits, and the proportion they bear to the total litigation of the Province, for the past eight years.

Suits by bankers and shopkeepers against agriculturists.

Year.	Number of suits.	Percentage of total litigation.
1876 ...	101,272	42
1877 ...	115,778	49
1878 ...	116,717	48
1879 ...	111,444	45
1880 ...	108,116	42
1881 ...	113,591	44
1882 ...	102,506	40
1883 ...	98,411	38

In the following districts the proportion was especially high :—

Shahpur	...	...	71 per cent.
Hoshiárpur	...	...	62 "
Dera Ismail Khan		...	60 "
Montgomery	...	...	57 "
Karnál	...	...	56 "
Gujrat	...	...	56 "
Siálkot	...	...	54 "

As, however, is pointed out by the Commissioner of Umballa, there is room for a good deal of difference of opinion as to what constitutes a banker or shopkeeper on the one hand, and an agriculturist on the other, and this may account for some of the variations both as between districts and between years.

C.—Value of Suits.

Value of suits instituted in 1882 and 1883.

13. Statement No. 3 in the Appendix shows the value of the suits instituted last year. Of the entire number of 260,968 which were instituted, 256,482 had a determinate money value, and the aggregate value of these is returned as Rs. 1,61,34,047. In 1882, 251,219 suits were instituted which could be valued, and their aggregate value was given in the returns as Rs. 1,61,46,560. Thus, it will be seen that the general average of value was slightly lower last year than in 1882, the figures giving an average of Rs. 64 in 1882 and of Rs. 63 last year.

Classification of suits.

14. Suits are divided in Statement 3 into four principal classes, as in the previous year; but, in the brief remarks which the Judges have to make on the present occasion regarding the value of suits, it will be sufficient to narrow the classification into suits for money or moveable property and suits of other descriptions. Suits for money or moveable property numbered 213,895, and were of an average value of Rs. 57. Suits of other descriptions consisted of 42,587 cases which could be valued in money, and 4,486 on which a money valuation could not be placed. The average value of the suits of determinate money value was Rs. 90, but it must be remembered that, as was explained at length in the Court's last report, the values given in the returns are merely those which were accepted for purposes of stamp duty, and by no means represent the true values of the suits. In 1882 the average value of suits for money or moveables was Rs. 58, and of other suits which could be valued Rs. 93.

Distribution of suits for money or moveables among classes of Courts.

15. Of the suits for money or moveable property all but 2,109 were small causes, and of these, again, only 2,742 exceeded Rs. 300 in amount or value. Of the remaining 209,044 suits, Courts of Small Causes and Honorary Courts took up 29,381, and 179,663 were divided between Courts of ordinary jurisdiction as under :—

			Number.	*Percentage.*
Munsiffs' Courts	...	...	144,514	81
Tahsíl Courts	...	...	14,865	8
Superior Courts	...	...	20,284	11

In connection with these figures it must be pointed out that institutions in Tahsíl Courts include cases taken up by Náib-Tahsíldárs, and also cases taken up by Tahsíldárs in tahsíls at a distance from a Munsiff's Court where there were not a sufficient number of small land cases to make up the prescribed amount of civil business, and that Superior Courts include officers in training, and also, it must be said, a few officers not in training who in the interest of litigants can only be entrusted with easy cases.

Distribution of suits of undeterminate money value among classes of Courts.

16. Of the suits which were not for money or moveables, 36,156 did not exceed Rs. 100 of nominal or declared value, and these were distributed as under :—

			Number.	*Percentage.*
Honorary Courts	...	...	874	2
Munsiffs' „	...	...	11,818	33
Tahsíl „	...	...	16,019	44
Superior „	...	...	7,445	21

The rest, that is, suits of higher value than Rs. 100 and suits on which a money valuation could not be placed, were divided between the same Courts in the following manner :—

		Exceeding Rs. 100 in amount or value.		*Of indeterminate money value.*	
		Number.	*Percentage.*	*Number.*	*Percentage.*
Honorary Courts	...	128	2	64	2
Munsiffs' „	...	1,272	20	360	8
Tahsíl „	...	1,024	16	373	8
Superior „	...	4,007	62	3,688	82

Principles under which distribution was effected.

17. The above statistics afford a fair indication of how far the distribution of civil business last year was in accordance with recognized principles. In the Court's Civil Report for 1881 it was pointed out that the distribution between Courts of general jurisdiction which was to be arrived at in each district was—

(*a*) that Munsiffs should, as far as possible, deal with small causes. In later communications District Officers were instructed that, when small causes are not sufficiently numerous to occupy the whole of a Munsiff's time, suits of other descriptions which do not relate to revenue-paying land and do not exceed Rs. 100 in amount or value may be suitably made over to him ;

(*b*) that suits relating to revenue-paying land, or the rent, revenue or produce of such land, should, when the stamp valuation does not exceed Rs. 100, be taken up, to the limit of 30 cases a month, by Tahsíldárs ;

(*c*) that the Superior Courts should not, except in special cases or under special circumstances, take up small causes within the powers of a Munsiff, and should take up, as far as possible, all suits relating to property in land of which the stamp valuation exceeds Rs. 100.

Distribution commented upon.

18. These principles were certainly better observed last year than in 1881. In suits for money or moveables, Munsiffs took up 68 per cent. of the entire number instituted, as against 62 per cent. in 1882 and 63 per cent. in 1881, and took up no less than 81 per cent. of the cases which were actually within their competence and not instituted in a Small Cause Court or Honorary Court. In suits of other descriptions, Munsiffs took up fewer suits relating to revenue-paying land last year than in either of the two previous years, and a greater proportion of those they did take up did not exceed Rs. 100 in amount or value. As has been pointed out in Section B, Tahsíldárs took up more rent and tenancy suits than in either of the two previous years, and these suits were, no doubt, for the most part within the limit of value fixed by the Court. In other suits relating to land Tahsíldárs do not seem to have adhered more strictly to the prescribed limit of value than in previous years. The districts in which Tahsíldárs and Munsiffs most frequently took up cases connected with revenue-paying land of a

higher value than Rs. 100 were Hoshiárpur, Amritsar, Siálkot and Ferozepore. In all these districts such cases could have been perfectly well taken up by Courts with full powers, if the rules of distribution which have been just quoted had been more closely adhered to. On the whole, however, civil business was no doubt better distributed last year than in either of the two preceding years.

Value and cost of suits disposed of during 1883.

19. The annexed table shows the value and cost of the suits *disposed of* last year. The suits have been divided into suits for money or moveables, and other suits, as in the preceding paragraphs of this section. Re-admitted and transferred cases have been excluded as in previous years.

VALUATION OF SUITS.		Number of suits		Aggregate value of suits		Aggregate cost of suits		Average value of suits		Average cost of suits		Percentage of cost to value	
		For money or moveable property.	Other suits.	For money or moveable property.	Other suits.	For money or moveable property.	Other suits.	For money or moveable property.	Other suits.	For money or moveable property.	Other suits.	For money or moveable property.	Other suits.
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		
Not exceeding Rs.	10	55,752	12,819	3,59,731	80,539	67,935	23,121	6 7 2	6 4 6	1 3 6	1 12 11	18	27
" "	50	101,897	18,133	26,02,687	4,96,853	3,00,295	69,407	25 8 7	27 6 5	2 14 5	3 15 1	11	14
" "	100	30,574	6,574	20,99,003	4,51,151	2,51,827	51,945	68 10 5	70 10 8	8 2 1	8 2 8	12	11
" "	300	20,009	4,631	31,62,403	7,94,909	2,99,185	89,163	157 8 0	171 12 0	14 15 2	19 4 0	8	11
" "	500	3,245	977	11,58,091	3,79,117	1,03,835	41,185	356 10 8	388 0 8	31 15 6	42 1 9	9	11
" "	1,000	1,427	602	9,84,478	3,92,871	99,267	43,740	689 13 8	652 10 8	69 9 1	72 10 8	10	12
" "	5,000	673	258	13,97,259	4,88,872	1,16,674	44,646	2,076 2 8	1,894 14 1	173 5 4	173 0 6	8	9
" "	10,000	53	14	3,55,884	1,00,126	25,782	7,118	6,714 12 8	7,151 13 8	486 7 2	508 1 1	7	7
" "	1,00,000	26	15	5,45,886	3,84,404	25,213	21,435	20,995 9 10	23,626 14 11	969 11 6	1,429 0 0	4	5
Exceeding "	1,00,000	1	..	1,20,000	..	1,570	..	1,20,000 0 0	.. .. ..	1,570 0 0	.. .. ..	1	..
Total ...	1883	213,657	43,823	1,27,75,372	35,68,842	12,91,083	3,91,753	59 12 11	81 7 0	6 0 8	8 15 3	10	11
	1882	212,235	41,250	1,27,43,359	36,71,887	12,44,073	3,83,021	60 0 8	89 0 3	5 13 9	9 4 7	10	10
Suits of which the value cannot be fixed.	1883	..	5,047	..	..	..	62,821	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	12 7 1	..	..
	1882	..	4,799	..	..	..	59,372	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	12 5 11	..	..
GRAND TOTAL ..	1883	213,657	48,870	1,27,75,372	35,68,842	12,91,083	4,54,574	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	6 0 8	9 4 8	..	..
	1882	212,235	46,049	1,27,43,359	36,71,887	12,44,073	4,42,393	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	5 13 9	9 9 9	..	..

The variations are not such as to call for remark.

D.—Disposal of Original Suits.

Suits for disposal, disposed of and pending.

20. Including 15,882 suits pending from 1882, 11,903 suits which were re-admitted or received on remand, and 19 suits received by transfer, there was a total number of 288,772 cases for disposal last year, or 3,073 more than in the preceding year.

Two of the suits above referred to were in the Chief Court. The following table shows the number of suits for disposal, disposed of and pending in District Courts for the last two years :—

Year.	For disposal.	Disposed of.	Pending.
1882 ...	285,699	269,818	15,881
1883 ...	288,770	272,601	16,169
Difference ...	+3,071	+2,783	+288

Details of disposal.

21. The percentage of cases for disposal which were decided was 94·4 in both years. The mode of disposal was as follows in each year :—

		1882	1883
Without trial ...	...	19·3	19·4
" contest ...	...	48·7	47·9
On reference to arbitration	...	1·3	1·4
After contest { for plaintiff	...	21·7	22·2
After contest { for defendant	...	9·0	9·1

The noticeable difference is that the percentage of contested cases rose from 30·7 to 31·3. Last year's percentage corresponds as nearly as possible with the percentage of the North-West Provinces in 1882.

Further details of disposal.

22. The annexed table gives further details of disposal for each district of the Province, the figures of 1882 being added for purposes of comparison :—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Percentage of cases																		*Average duration*			
District.	Dismissed on default.		Withdrawn with leave, Section 373, Civil Procedure Code.		Compromised.		Decreed on confession.		Decided *ex-parte*.		Referred to arbitration.		Contested and decided in favor of plaintiff.		Contested and decided in favor of defendant.		Percentage of contested cases decided in favor of plaintiff to the number contested.		In contested cases.		In uncontested cases.	
	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883
Delhi ...	9	9	0·9	0·8	23	28	20	16	7	9	1	1	27	26	12	10	71	72	29	35	18	17
Gurgaon ...	19	17	1	1·7	31	25	16	14	7	7	1	1	14	21	9	9	62	69	24	25	14	18
Karnál ...	19	15	1	0·5	22	16	18	28	8	8	1	1·6	16	18	12	12	58	61	32	31	21	17
Hissar ...	15	17	1	1·4	34	33	19	15	9	9	2	2	10	13	9	9	55	58	23	38	14	22
Rohtak ...	10	11	0·6	1·1	30	31	23	20	4	5	0·5	0·5	21	22	9	9	69	71	35	41	20	20
Sirsa ...	19	18	1	1·2	16	15	18	16	9	8	1	1·5	19	25	16	13	55	65	39	44	27	29
Umballa ...	15	14	1	0·8	37	34	10	10	8	9	0·9	1·1	18	21	10	9	65	70	29	27	18	19
Ludhiána ...	12	13	0·8	0·9	32	27	15	14	5	4	1	1·2	22	24	12	14	65	63	33	43	18	22
Simla ...	12	20	2	1·3	10	11	18	20	23	24	1	3	25	15	8	5	75	76	21	39	20	27
Jullundur ...	17	16	1	0·8	20	24	21	16	10	9	1	1·2	22	23	7	8	75	74	35	33	19	19
Hoshiárpur ...	22	20	0·2	0·6	19	16	21	21	8	7	0·7	0·7	22	24	7	10	75	71	37	33	21	22
Kángra ...	16	14	0·2	0·4	18	26	17	13	6	6	1	1·6	28	27	12	11	71	72	27	32	17	21
Amritsar ...	23	22	0·7	0·7	19	15	21	21	8	10	0·7	0·7	19	21	8	9	72	70	49	34	24	23
Gurdáspur ...	17	18	0·4	0·4	23	21	21	19	7	7	1	0·9	22	23	8	10	74	70	37	31	25	21
Siálkot ...	17	20	0·9	0·4	15	17	19	15	8	8	1	1·5	30	28	9	10	78	74	29	32	19	21
Lahore ...	15	15	0·6	0·7	22	24	21	19	10	10	1	1	22	22	7	7	76	75	23	22	15	16
Gujránwála ...	23	25	0·2	0·1	21	22	19	20	12	11	1	1·2	15	14	7	6	67	69	35	46	23	24
Ferozepore ...	17	19	0·7	0·5	19	21	16	13	10	11	0·9	0·8	24	23	11	11	68	67	32	28	19	16
Rawalpindi ...	18	18	0·8	0·5	16	12	18	21	13	16	2	2·3	22	22	10	8	69	74	34	25	22	26
Jhelum ...	18	20	1·9	0·8	19	24	13	12	8	10	2	1·2	21	23	16	8	59	73	30	31	22	24
Gujrat ...	18	19	0·7	0·3	29	24	13	14	8	7	1	1·4	20	23	10	10	69	69	33	38	24	22
Shahpur ...	22	25	0·7	0·8	18	18	18	19	14	10	3	2·9	17	17	7	7	72	74	40	36	27	28
Mooltan ...	28	28	0·9	0·5	13	16	20	19	12	11	2	1·7	16	16	8	8	67	68	53	71	24	10
Jhang ...	20	25	0·4	2·7	34	27	10	8	13	13	1	0·6	13	16	7	6	65	72	42	58	26	18
Montgomery ...	14	17	0·5	0·7	35	35	10	8	13	15	1	1·3	18	18	8	5	71	78	34	26	21	17
Muzaffargarh ...	29	29	0·8	0·2	23	22	19	19	7	10	0·8	1	15	13	5	5	78	73	51	53	32	35
Dera Ismail Khan ...	11	14	3	2·5	34	35	11	11	11	12	2	1·7	20	17	7	7	75	73	23	21	17	18
Dera Ghází Khan ...	16	15	2	1·7	22	19	16	18	9	10	1	2	28	28	6	6	83	84	25	21	17	13
Bannu ...	13	15	0·7	0·8	23	27	9	9	11	13	3	2·5	26	23	13	9	67	72	36	55	29	50
Peshâwar ...	17	16	1	1·8	15	15	12	12	9	11	2	2	29	29	14	13	68	68	31	22	24	16
Hazára ...	15	14	0·7	1	13	18	12	13	5	5	2	2·4	33	33	18	13	65	72	14	16	12	13
Kohát ...	15	13	0·3	1	15	14	21	22	11	11	2	2	26	27	9	10	75	73	29	22	21	21
Total ...	18	18	1	1	21	22	18	16	9	10	1	1	22	22	9	9	71	71	33	20	21	17

Dismissals on default.

23. The proportion of cases dismissed for default was 18 per cent., as in the two previous years. In 22·7 per cent. of the cases thus disposed of, applications for re-admission were filed, and of these applications 72·8 per cent. were granted. In 1882 the ratio of applications for restoration to dismissals was 23 per cent., and 74 per cent. succeeded; in 1881 the ratio of applications was 24 per cent., and of these 77 per cent. were successful. The number of fresh suits brought on claims dismissed for default was 401 in 1881, 367 in 1882 and 376 last year.

The proportion of cases dismissed for default was highest in the following districts :—

Muzaffargarh	...	...	29 per cent.
Mooltan	...	...	28 „
Gujránwála	...	...	25 „
Shahpur	...	...	25 „
Jhang	...	...	25 „

In the Muzaffargarh and Mooltan Districts very few applications for restoration were preferred, and it would seem, therefore, that in many cases parties who settled their differences privately were content to do so without filing their agreements in Court. In the other three districts the high percentages cannot be similarly accounted for, and enquiry will be made regarding

the procedure of the Courts in which dismissals for default were most frequent. Enquiry will likewise be made in the case of districts which return abnormal ratios of applications, and especially successful applications, for restoration, to ascertain whether the figures are in any way due to the mode in which particular Courts were accustomed to deal with such applications.

Cases withdrawn, compromised and confessed.

24. The proportion of suits withdrawn with leave to institute fresh proceedings was 1 per cent., as in the previous year. The returns show an increase of 1 per cent. in compromised cases, and a falling-off of 2 per cent. in suits in which the defendant confessed judgment, as compared with the previous year. Increases under the former head in the Delhi, Jullundur, Kángra, Siálkot and Ferozepore Districts are accompanied by a falling-off in the percentage of cases decreed on confession, and, to the extent of the falling-off, probably indicate that the rule, that only cases in which a decree passes for the full amount claimed are to be shown as confessed, was better observed. The opposite conclusion is suggested by the figures received from the Karnál, Dera Ghází Khan, Kohát and Rawalpindi Districts. The falling-off under both heads in the Jhang returns is nearly compensated for by the increase in the proportion of persons who put in no appearance at all. In the Gurgaon, Ludhiána, Hoshiárpur and Gujrat Districts cases were more frequently contested than in the previous year.

Cases decided *ex-parte*.

25. The percentage of cases decided *ex-parte* is 10, or 1 per cent. higher than last year. The Simla District again heads the list with 24 per cent., as against 23 per cent. in the previous year and 28 per cent. in 1881. In Rawalpindi the percentage rose from 13 to 16, in Muzaffargarh from 7 to 10, in Montgomery from 13 to 15 and in Bannu from 11 to 13. In Shahpur the percentage fell from 14 to 10, in Ludhiána from 5 to 4, and the percentage was 5 only in the Rohtak and Hazára Districts.

In 13·3 per cent. of the cases applications were made to set aside the *ex-parte* decrees, and of these applications 62 per cent. were granted and 38 per cent. were refused. In the preceding year the proportion of applications to *ex-parte* decrees was 12 per cent., and 66 per cent. of the applications were successful.

References to arbitration.

26. The proportion of cases decided by arbitration was the same as in the preceding year. Out of 3,697 awards which were filed, 47 were set aside, judgment being given according to the award in 3,650 cases. In Simla the proportion of cases decided by arbitrators rose from 1 to 3 per cent. The next highest percentages were in Shahpur (2·9), Bannu (2·5), Hazára (2·4) and Rawalpindi (2·3).

Contested suits.

27. A rise of 0·6 in the percentage of contested cases has already been brought to notice, and Gurgaon, Ludhiána, Hoshiárpur and Gujrat have been mentioned as districts in which the percentage was appreciably higher. The increase is most marked in the three districts first named. In Gurgaon an increase of 7 per cent. is entirely confined to cases decided in favor of the plaintiff. The most marked decreases were in Simla (13 per cent.), Bannu (7 per cent.) and Jhelum (6 per cent.). It has already been explained that the Bannu staff, until it was strengthened, was unable to keep pace with the remarkable increase of litigation which set in early in the year, and the Deputy Commissioner thinks that litigants, finding that they would have to wait some time before their cases could be decided in Court, took to settling them out of Court. The Simla returns show that litigants had to wait considerably longer for their cases to be decided last year than in previous years, and this, though it is not suggested in the local reports, may to some extent have influenced the returns of that district also.

Of the suits that were decided after contest, 71 per cent. were decided in favour of plaintiffs. The proportion was highest in the districts of:—

Dera Ghází Khan	...	...	84 per cent.
Montgomery	...	...	78 "
Simla	...	...	76 "
Lahore	...	...	75 "

It was lowest in—

Hissar	...	...	58 per cent.
Karnál	...	...	61 "
Ludhiána	...	...	63 "

Applications for review of judgment.

28. Applications for review of judgment numbered 2,364 last year, and bore a ratio of 2 7 per cent. to the number of contested decisions. In the preceding year the number of applications was 2,456, and their ratio to contested decisions 2 8 per cent. The results of the applications are given for the past two years in the annexed table :—

Year	Rejected	Granted.		Pending at the end of the year.
		Former order upheld.	Former order reversed or modified	
1882	1,019	570	671	196
1883	1,170	544	531	119

It will be seen that fewer applications were granted last year than in 1882, and fewer still ultimately succeeded in whole or in part.

Commissions.

29. The following table gives information regarding the number of commissions which were issued by Civil Courts during the past and previous years:—

Year.	For local investigation				For examination of accounts			
	To a revenue official	To any other person.	Total.	Average cost.	To a revenue official.	To any other person.	Total.	Average cost.
				Rs. A. P.				Rs. A. P.
1882	1,125	2,738	3,863	4 2 6	163	2,201	2,364	4 2 3
1883	971	2,521	3,492	3 14 0	134	2,171	2,305	4 11 0

The decrease in the number of commissions issued for local investigation is satisfactory, as the issue of a commission of this nature too often merely means that the Court does not care to take the trouble to ascertain for itself the facts necessary for the decision of the case. Considering, however, the amount of attention which has been paid to the subject during the last two years, a still larger decrease might have been looked for, and especially in commissions issued to revenue officials, which, under the rules, should only be issued with the previously obtained permission of the Deputy Commissioner.

Average cost of commissions.

30. The average cost of the commissions issued for local investigation was 4½ annas lower, and that of the commissions issued to examine accounts 8¾ annas higher, in the past than in the previous year. District averages under the first head vary from Rs. 7-3-1 in Jhang and Rs. 6-1-0 in Pesháwar, to Rs. 1-5-2 in Gurgaon. Commissions for the examination of accounts cost the parties on the average Rs. 12-8-0 in the Kohát District, but it is explained that this high average is due to one heavy case in the Deputy Commissioner's Court in which a fee of Rs. 300 was paid. Excluding this case, the average cost was Rs. 5-1-8, which was exceeded by averages of Rs. 10 in the Gurdáspur District, Rs. 6-0-0 in Gujránwála, Rs. 5-6-8 in Ludhiána, Rs. 5-6-6 in Amritsar and Rs. 5-1-9 in Jullundur. In Gurdáspur the action of one particular Court in issuing commissions was brought to notice by the Deputy Commissioner, and the necessary orders passed by the Court. In Hissar the average cost of the commissions issued for the examination of accounts was 14¼ annas only.

31. Another matter to which much attention has been paid during the last two years is the attachment of property before judgment. The result will be seen from the following figures, which show the number of such attachments in each of the last three years :—

Orders attaching property before judgment.

1881	...	... 1,189
1882	...	... 950
1883	...	... 750

The figures are probably still too high, for, when the Court has directed the orders of particular officers to be examined, it has usually been reported that the attachment was ordered on insufficient grounds, or the prescribed procedure was not observed, and often that both irregularities had been committed. Until subordinate Courts learn how to use their power to attach property before judgment with discretion, the Court will continue its present practice of ordering enquiry to be made whenever there seems reason to apprehend that the power may have been at all misused.

Compensation was awarded in 4 cases for improper attachments against 8 cases in the previous year.

32. The following table shows the number of decrees bearing interest which have been passed since statistics on the subject were first collected :—

Decrees bearing interest.

	1881	1882	1883
By consent	3,610	3,865	2,718
Without consent ...	683	570	370
Total ...	4,293	4,435	3,088

The large decrease in the number of decrees passed by consent is specially deserving of attention, as the probable outcome of events which it will be convenient here to briefly notice. Early last year the Commissioner of Rawalpindi reported that he had found, when on tour, that certain officers in the Shahpur District were in the habit of passing decrees bearing excessive rates of interest, and that he was making further enquiries on the subject. The result of these enquiries was to show that high rates of interest had certainly been allowed, but almost always, at the request of the parties, in cases amicably adjusted out of Court; and that in some cases the interest had only been allowed on overdue instalments, when the parties had arranged that the decree should be satisfied by instalments. It also appeared that one Court, at all events, of those whose decrees were called in question held the view that he was bound in such cases, under the terms of Section 375 of the Code, to allow the rates fixed by the parties. A circular was thereupon issued pointing out that this view of the law was erroneous, and that the Court has usually, in cases adjusted by the parties, as wide a discretion in the matter of awarding interest as in cases in which the claim to interest is contested. These instructions have recently been brought to the special notice of Government, and prominence is given to them in this Report as they are of great importance, if—as is not improbable—the idea has generally prevailed that rates of interest agreed on by the parties cannot be touched, except with their assent. The action of individual Courts in passing decrees bearing interest otherwise than by consent has been closely watched since the subject was first ventilated two years ago, and it will be seen there has been a steady decrease in the number of such decrees.

Statistics have for the first time been collected in the returns now under remark regarding the average rates of interest allowed on decrees. The average rates for the Province are returned as 10 per cent. in decrees passed by consent and 9 per cent. in other decrees. The instructions to which allusion has just been made should materially reduce the former rate. The latter rate is not altogether satisfactory, and would be still less so, were it not that the general rate is calculated on the rates of the different districts, and the district rates which are highest are usually based on exceptionally few cases. Thus, the rate of 17 per cent. in the Gujrat District is calculated on a single case, that of 15 per cent. in Rawalpindi on 10 cases only. In Delhi, however, interest was

allowed at an average rate of 12 per cent. on 94 decrees, the highest rates being allowed in the Court of the Assistant Commissioner and the Small Cause Court. In eighteen districts the rate did not exceed 6 per cent.

Pending cases.

33. It has been shown in paragraph 20 that there were 288 more cases pending at the end of last year than at the beginning of the year. The increase, however, is really nominal, owing to the larger number of cases pending under Section 99 A of the Civil Procedure Code last year. Deducting these cases—in which the law allows a year's grace to a plaintiff to apply for a fresh summons when the first has been returned unserved—as cases in which the Court cannot be held responsible for the delay, the true arrears consisted of 15,534 cases at the end of 1882 and 15,571 cases at the end of last year. The heaviest arrears in proportion to the amount of work for disposal were in the Bannu and Sirsa Districts. In the former district the arrears which had accumulated before the staff was strengthened had not been all cleared off by the end of the year, though they have been since. In the Sirsa District the work of the Extra Assistant Commissioner at head-quarters fell into arrears during the last two months of the year. Attention was called to the fact at the time.

The number of cases which, when the year closed, had been pending for more than three months was 538, as compared with 561 at the end of the previous year and 673 at the end of 1881. The general decrease is satisfactory. In Amritsar, however, the number of such cases was 161, and the Court cannot admit that this was entirely the result of constant changes of officers and the staff being specially weak at the end of the year, which are the reasons assigned in the Deputy Commissioner's report.

The oldest case on the file of an original Court at the end of 1883 was instituted in the Court of the Judicial Assistant of Mooltan on the 13th June 1881. The next oldest case was instituted in the Amritsar District on the 7th November 1881. Six of the pending cases in the Delhi District and seven cases in Amritsar were filed on various dates in 1882. In all the Delhi cases the delay is satisfactorily explained, and in one of the Amritsar cases.

Average duration of cases.

Mooltan	...	71 days
Bannu	...	55 "
Muzaffargarh	...	53 "
Gujránwála	...	46 "
Sirsa	...	44 "
Ludhiána	...	43 "

34. The averages of duration were the same as in the previous year, *viz*, 33 days for contested cases and 21 days for cases decided without contest. The duration of contested suits was highest in the districts noted in the margin. It was only 16 days in Hazára, after which follow Dera Ismail Khan, Dera Ghází Khan, Lahore, Pesháwar and Kohát, with averages of only 21 and 22 days respectively. In uncontested suits the average of duration varies from 50 days in Bannu and 35 days in Muzaffargarh to 10 days in Mooltan. That Mooltan should return the highest average in contentious and the lowest in non-contentious cases seems remarkable. The Deputy Commissioner explains the former of these facts by attributing it to the number of old-pending cases of 1881 and 1882 that were decided in the year under review.

The average duration in the different classes of Courts is given in the table below for the past two years ;—

	Contested.		*Uncontested.*	
	1882	1883	1882	1883
Deputy Commissioners' Courts ...	62	83	52	29
Judicial Assistants' Courts ...	60	79	36	38
Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners' Courts ...	43	42	28	28
District Small Cause Courts ...	22	19	21	19
Cantonment Small Cause Courts ...	20	24	13	15
Tahsíldárs' Courts ...	30	31	20	20
Náib-Tahsíldárs' Courts ...	21	22	14	17
Munsiffs' Courts ...	29	30	20	21
Honorary Civil Judges' Courts ...	33	33	20	21

The duration of contested suits, it will be observed, is considerably higher in the Courts of Deputy Commissioners and Judicial Assistants. The increase in

Deputy Commissioners' Courts is due to exceptional averages in the Jhang and Pesháwar Districts. No explanation has been given for an average of 299 days in the Jhang District, but it should be remembered that the Deputy Commissioner of Jhang has no Judicial Assistant.

The Pesháwar average is calculated on a single case. The highest averages in Judicial Assistants' Courts are noted in the margin. The Delhi and Mooltan averages are explained to be due to the dilatoriness of officers who were not in charge during the year. Exceptional circumstances, which were explained during the year, increased the Hoshiárpur average. The Gujrat and Amritsar averages seem unnecessarily high.

Delhi	...	198 days
Hoshiárpur	...	169 "
Gujrat	...	143 "
Mooltan	...	136 "
Amritsar	...	107 "

A decrease of 3 days in the duration of contested cases in District Small Cause Courts, and an increase of 4 days in the duration of Cantonment Courts, will be noticed hereafter in the section dealing with the work of Small Cause Courts.

Average duration of attendances.

35. The average number of attendances required for the disposal of a suit was 3, as in the five previous years. The general average was only exceeded in the Pesháwar District, where 5 attendances were usually necessary. Correspondence passed on the subject during the year.

Plaints rejected and returned.

36. The number of plaints which were rejected or returned, before and after registration, is noted below for the past two years :—

	Before registration.	*After registration.*
1882 ...	6,036	1,261
1883 ...	6,555	1,324
Difference ...	+519	+63

Thus, in the aggregate, 582 more plaints were rejected or returned in 1883 than in 1882.

E.—Agency employed in Districts.

Distribution of original business in districts.

37. It has been shown in the previous section of this Report that 272,601 original suits were decided last year by District Courts. The annexed table shows in detail the agency employed, and compares the distribution of last year with that of the two previous years :—

Number of officers.			Grade of officers.	Original suits decided. Number.			Original suits decided. Percentage.			Average number of cases decided by officers of each grade.		
1881	1882	1883		1881	1882	1883	1881	1882	1883	1881	1882	1883
32	32	32	Deputy Commissioners ...	177	229	127	0·1	0·1	0·1	5	7	4
14	14	14	Judicial Assistants ... Europeans ...	1,867	1,458	1,602	0·7	0·5	0·6	133	104	115
8	9	9	Judicial Assistants ... Natives ...	3,146	3,950	2,406	1·2	1·5	1·0	393	439	267
28	24	26	Assistant Commissioners ...	6,283	6,620	6,000	2·4	2·5	2·2	224	276	231
11	16	12	Extra Assistant Commissioners Europeans	3,198	3,223	4,019	1·2	1·2	1·5	291	201	335
68	66	64	Extra Assistant Commissioners Natives	33,353	33,349	28,286	12·6	12·3	10·4	490	505	442
122	123	125	Tahsildárs ...	30,205	31,839	30,068	11·4	11·8	11·1	248	259	241
25	24	18	Náib-Tahsildárs ...	5,786	5,355	3,696	2·2	2·0	1·3	231	223	205
74	74	*78	Munsiffs ...	150,459	151,588	164.147	56·9	56·2	60·2	2,033	2,048	2,104
43	50	49	Honorary Civil Judges ...	11,019	11,613	10,368	4·1	4·3	3·7	256	232	212
4	4	4	Judges of District Small Cause Courts ...	12,587	13,426	14,071	4·8	5·0	5·1	3,147	3,357	3,518
9	8	9	Judges of Cantonment Small Cause Courts	6,211	7,123	7,811	2·4	2·6	2·8	690	890	868
			Total ...	264,291	269,773	272,601						

* 74 throughout the year and 10 for a portion of the year.

38. The most important feature in the figures is the large increase in the number of cases disposed of by Munsiffs. Munsiffs' Courts disposed of 12,559 more cases in 1883 than in the previous year, and the number of their disposals represented three-fifths of the total disposals of the year. This satisfactory result—for it must be considered satisfactory, seeing that the increase is made up entirely of small cause and other cases suitable for a Munsiff to try—is, no doubt, principally due to the addition which was made to the staff of Munsiffs during the year. Something also, it may be hoped, is due to improved rules of distribution. The distribution of judicial business, and especially civil business, received particular attention during the year, and in a considerable number of districts new rules were introduced either under the direct orders of, or in consequence of, suggestions made by this Court.

Increase in disposal by Munsiffs' Courts.

39. The greater part of the relief has, as was intended, fallen on the Superior Courts. Whereas in 1882 these Courts disposed of 48,829 cases, representing 18·1 per cent. of the entire number of disposals, last year they disposed of 42,440 cases only, or 15·8 per cent. of the whole number disposed of.

Disposals by Superior Courts

Disposals by Tahsíldárs.

Muktsar ... 465 cases
Murree ... 435 „
Dabwáli ... 428 „

40. Tahsíldárs disposed of rather less civil work than in either of the two previous years, and the prescribed limit of 330 cases per annum was only materially exceeded in the three Courts noted in the margin.

41. The average number of cases decided by Munsiffs has increased from 2,048 to 2,104. The pressure of work was heaviest in the Courts noted in the margin, in each of which the monthly average exceeded 250 cases. Relief was given to the Batála, Chakwál and Mooltan Courts when the Provincial establishment of Munsiffs was strengthened. There would have been no undue pressure in the Rawalpindi Court had two Munsiffs sat throughout the year at the Sadr, as they did for the last ten months. The number in excess at Shahpur was not large, nor at Montgomery, regard being had to the fact that the Munsiffs' work consisted almost entirely of small causes, of which only 21 per cent. were contested.

Disposals by Munsiffs.

Batála, one Court at Rawalpindi, Chakwál Shahpur, Mooltan and Montgomery.

42. Not quite so much work was disposed of by Honorary agency last year as in the two preceding years. The gentlemen who disposed of the largest numbers of cases are named below :—

Disposals by Honorary Courts.

District.	Name of Judge.	Powers.	Number of cases disposed of.
		Rs	
Amritsar ..	Sardár Ajít Singh	500	1,865
Ferozepore ...	Sodhi Mán Singh, C.I.E.	10,000	778
Gujránwála ...	Rája Harbans Singh	100	690
Siálkot ...	Sardár Dyál Singh	500	663
Gujránwála ...	Sardár Mahtáb Singh	50	488
Ferozepore ...	Sodhi Indar Singh	300	416
Kángra ...	Rája Amar Chand	500	374
Ferozepore ...	Sodhi Rájindar Singh	100	342
Dera Ghází Khan ...	Fazl Ali Khán	50	285
Gurgaon ...	Muhammad Saráj-ud-dín Haidar Khán ...	300	252

Sardár Ajít Singh's good services were acknowledged in connection with the criminal returns. After him Sodhi Mán Singh disposed of most civil work, and gave very material assistance to the paid staff of the Ferozepore District. The amount of work done by Rája Harbans Singh would deserve acknowledgment had it been more carefully and punctually performed. Sardár Dyál Singh disposed of an average of 60 cases a month, and the assistance he gave is cordially acknowledged by the Deputy Commissioner of Siálkot, notwithstanding certain defects of procedure which the Judges hope the Sardár will avoid in future. The work of the other gentlemen named does not call for further remark.

43. Courts of Small Causes disposed of 7·9 per cent. of the civil litigation of the Province last year, as against 7·6 per cent. in 1882 and 7 2 per cent. in 1881.

Disposals by Small Cause Courts.

F.—Miscellaneous Cases.

Miscellaneous cases under the Civil Procedure Code.

44. The first section of statement No. 2 in the Appendix shows miscellaneous cases under the Civil Procedure Code.

There were 36,794 miscellaneous cases under the Civil Procedure Code, as compared with 33,934 in 1882. The most marked increase is under the head "objections to attached property," which rose from 11,800 to 13,077.

Applications to sue or appeal as a pauper increased from 1,239 to 1,342. Such applications were by far the most numerous in the Ludhiána and Pesháwar Districts.

Proceedings under Sections 174 and 643 of the Civil Procedure Code numbered 128, as against 136 in the previous year. They were most numerous in the Rawalpindi, Mooltan and Hazára Districts.

It may be stated here that the result of the inquiry as to the number of prosecutions of recusant witnesses in the Courts of the Lahore Munsiffs during the year 1882 was to show that in many cases a warrant was issued under Section 174, Civil Procedure Code, for a witness who had neglected to attend on a summons ; but that no further steps were taken against him, the only object being to procure his attendance.

Other miscellaneous cases.

45. The most numerous class of miscellaneous cases which do not fall under the Civil Procedure Code consists of applications under Regulations I of 1798 and XVII of 1806 for redemption or foreclosure of mortgages. There were 1,409 of these applications last year, as against 1,211 in the previous year.

Such applications were most numerous in the following districts :—

Gujránwála	...	...	...	189
Umballa	...	...	...	186
Rohtak	...	...	...	175
Hissar	...	...	...	139
Gurgaon	...	...	...	104

Applications under Acts XL of 1858 and IX of 1861.

46. Applications for certificates of guardianship of minors numbered 375, as against 358 in the previous year. These applications were most numerous in Amritsar (41), Lahore (37), Pesháwar (28) and Ludhiána (27).

Applications under Act XXXV of 1858.

47. Only 9 applications were preferred regarding the care of lunatics, of which 5 were in the Mooltan and 2 in the Ferozepore Districts.

Applications for certificates under Act XXVII of 1860.

48. The number of applications for certificates under Act XXVII of 1860 was 525 as against 630 in the preceding year. In respect of the number of such applications the Lahore, Amritsar, Delhi and Dera Ismail Khan Districts stand foremost.

Uncontested applications for probates and letters of administration.

49. There were only 30 uncontested applications for probates and letters of administration, and, of these, no less than 12 were made in the districts of the Umballa Division, and 3 each in the Karnál, Gurdáspur and Lahore Districts. There were 4 such applications made to the Chief Court, as against 11 last year.

Cases connected with the custody and disposal of intestate property.

50. Only 19 other cases connected with the custody and disposal of intestate property were dealt with, as against 62 in the previous year. Of these, the Kohát, Pesháwar and Amritsar Districts account for 17 cases.

Cases under Act X of 1870.

51. Fourteen cases, as against 13 in 1882, were disposed of by Commissioners under the Land Acquisition Act of 1870, 10 being disposed of by the Commissioner of Delhi. There were 3 cases disposed of by Divisional Courts under Section 14 of the Legal Practitioners Act.

Miscellaneous cases.

52. There were 38,958 miscellaneous cases instituted during the year, as compared with 37,117 in 1882, and there were in all 41,220 cases for disposal, or an increase of 4 per cent. Of the number for disposal, 39,379 were decided as follows :—

Without trial	...	...	10,924, or 28 per cent.
„ contest	...	...	4,308, „ 11 „
With contest	...	...	24,147, „ 61 „

Average duration.

53. The average duration of contested cases was 18 days, and of uncontested cases 12 days.

G.—Execution of Decrees.

Execution proceedings of 1882 and 1883 compared.

54. The annexed statement shows the result of the proceedings taken for the execution of decrees in each district during the past two years.

District.	Total number of applications for execution.		Transferred.		Completely executed.		Partially executed.		Wholly infructuous.		Total number disposed of		Percentage of decrees completely executed to the number disposed of.		Average duration.		Value of money decrees in execution.		Amount realized. Voluntarily.		Amount realized. After issue but without execution of process.		Amount realized. After execution of coercive process.		Percentage realized.	
	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883
																	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
Delhi ...	6,971	7,052	13	183	2,104	2,034	2,159	1,991	2,292	2,603	6,568	6,711	32	30	25	27	8,74,875	7,58,831	43,994	41,163	53,599	39,678	1,48,456	1,02,752	28	24
Gurgaon ...	1,958	1,853	9	15	499	539	502	447	809	726	1,819	1,727	27	31	33	32	2,29,207	1,59,553	3,921	3,285	2,993	4,993	33,370	25,648	18	21
Karnál ...	3,683	3,379	26	27	853	747	531	547	1,797	1,748	3,207	3,069	27	24	36	44	2,92,115	2,32,373	25,694	24,695	914	7,366	61,499	39,969	31	31
Hissar ...	2,116	1,695	2	2	615	443	658	487	772	672	2,047	1,604	30	27	24	25	1,98,768	1,58,675	6,450	3,368	4,945	4,054	43,901	21,342	28	21
Rohtak ...	4,191	4,238	11	10	1,189	1,100	1,419	1,414	1,106	1,213	3,725	3,737	32	29	32	33	2,15,992	2,35,208	10,291	10,229	8,256	6,565	51,264	52,970	32	30
Umballa ...	7,937	8,337	7	14	2,468	2,565	2,189	1,945	2,465	3,020	7,129	7,544	34	34	45	36	6,71,135	8,48,730	11,136	21,873	34,587	43,261	1,44,751	3,33,551	28	47
Ludhiána ...	8,545	8,899	40	106	2,458	2,330	3,461	2,889	1,568	1,997	7,527	7,322	32	32	33	40	5,89,850	4,61,791	20,872	22,499	41,935	21,686	98,114	75,518	27	26
Simla ...	1,637	1,440	15	22	439	328	341	236	799	762	1,594	1,348	27	24	12	18	1,31,775	1,94,055	14,309	5,916	351	2,424	36,851	54,133	28	32
Jullundur ...	17,224	17,796	30	4	3,893	3,604	4,513	4,191	6,813	7,910	15,249	15,709	25	23	51	50	10,99,506	10,09,175	12,728	21,713	60,042	57,535	1,71,389	1,85,592	22	26
Hoshiárpur ...	13,788	14,463	39	23	3,988	4,293	3,289	2,883	4,597	5,196	11,913	12,395	34	34	47	49	9,43,753	8,08,828	7,794	13,299	26,709	25,158	2,23,390	1,78,698	27	27
Káugra ...	3,877	3,331	...	2	1,443	1,173	1,159	862	975	966	3,577	3,003	40	39	33	43	1,38,223	1,36,463	4,821	1,981	7,331	8,342	44,680	40,873	41	38
Amritsar ...	11,860	12,462	...	38	3,377	3,832	2,681	3,224	4,378	4,127	10,436	11,221	32	34	68	56	6,30,490	7,77,216	27,760	43,481	10,846	26,811	1,73,879	1,69,056	33	31
Gurdáspur ...	11,901	12,112	7	68	3,172	3,746	2,882	2,588	3,325	4,109	9,386	10,511	33	35	73	63	5,44,685	5,86,134	9,631	7,486	33,967	27,640	1,23,113	1,55,743	31	33
Siálkot ...	13,824	13,447	...	...	3,745	3,634	3,600	3,330	5,334	5,149	12,679	12,113	30	30	35	32	5,04,350	5,15,494	3,442	3,242	35,517	43,459	1,48,152	1,27,587	37	33
Lahore ...	14,159	14,520	120	178	4,598	4,055	3,697	4,063	4,485	4,984	12,900	13,280	35	30	27	25	5,89,706	5,74,673	45,823	51,610	14,658	22,895	2,00,388	1,75,363	44	44
Gujránwála ...	8,338	8,645	45	85	1,853	1,986	1,919	1,716	3,575	3,672	7,392	7,459	25	25	43	44	4,51,868	4,62,777	15,459	4,399	11,824	17,905	95,100	90,610	27	24
Ferozepore ...	7,897	8,565	89	41	2,584	2,391	1,648	1,635	2,769	3,659	7,090	7,726	36	31	34	37	3,15,134	4,33,929	2,269	3,298	11,028	14,434	1,23,365	1,31,475	43	34
Rawalpindi ...	8,531	9,409	3	64	2,649	2,898	1,878	2,161	3,027	3,473	7,557	8,596	35	33	46	39	6,27,391	6,09,991	27,265	7,600	18,445	18,603	1,70,440	1,90,391	34	36
Jhelum ...	3,295	4,245	1	1	1,066	1,157	469	730	1,341	1,990	2,877	3,878	37	29	41	34	2,73,802	2,98,988	4,021	17,712	7,749	8,181	49,078	68,098	22	31
Gujrat ...	5,856	6,276	144	58	1,617	1,747	1,355	1,532	2,061	2,282	5,177	5,619	31	31	26	34	1,53,749	1,55,360	3,426	6,605	2,767	3,275	66,546	62,284	47	46
Shahpur ...	3,891	4,377	...	...	1,073	824	815	661	1,736	2,495	3,624	3,960	30	21	46	66	1,29,210	1,57,792	3,549	2,913	5,583	4,890	32,333	34,918	32	27
Mooltan ...	3,283	3,534	...	4	1,207	1,542	290	253	1,498	1,457	2,995	3,256	40	47	27	31	1,60,149	2,64,825	865	1,272	14,460	14,376	74,806	79,882	56	36
Jhang ...	2,936	3,243	...	3	1,146	950	424	575	1,107	1,453	2,677	2,981	43	32	38	38	1,59,199	1,74,064	3,426	2,966	7,466	6,513	35,414	30,922	22	23
Montgomery ...	1,893	2,312	...	...	781	726	265	391	631	1,011	1,677	2,128	47	34	36	45	1,73,945	1,79,057	2,115	1,536	4,642	13,025	38,525	29,821	26	24
Muzaffargarh ...	3,117	2,478	...	...	1,222	895	449	415	1,126	1,009	2,797	2,319	44	38	62	48	1,21,508	1,14,241	5,276	4,836	10,696	8,753	32,065	35,288	39	42
Dera Ismail Khan ...	2,694	2,743	...	...	1,094	985	433	454	946	1,072	2,473	2,511	44	39	35	37	1,58,122	1,47,704	9,053	9,259	14,648	10,407	45,010	43,637	43	43
Dera Ghází Khan ...	3,925	4,859	3	...	1,709	1,775	542	692	1,344	1,946	3,598	4,413	47	40	35	22	1,56,037	1,75,538	17,335	2,669	11,429	18,172	35,794	55,039	41	43
Bannu ...	2,785	3,249	3	...	1,329	1,236	391	412	825	1,012	2,548	2,660	52	47	45	59	1,09,474	1,44,028	7,625	7,036	8,002	12,460	44,114	32,299	56	36
Peshá'war ...	3,463	3,951	2	3	1,124	1,488	732	610	1,099	1,463	2,957	3,564	38	42	22	25	2,72,677	2,64,759	3,947	6,992	28,115	21,716	71,193	81,433	38	42
Hazára ...	1,660	1,723	...	7	577	565	287	320	635	671	1,499	1,563	38	36	17	19	65,840	51,543	8,576	4,266	1,188	5,402	18,002	14,898	40	47
Kohát ...	1,339	1,578	1	2	663	711	280	267	266	425	1,210	1,405	58	50	23	28	96,365	1,11,771	891	2,820	11,193	1,074	29,331	39,735	43	39
Total ...	189,228	197,505	611	961	57,017	56,848	45,577	44,161	65,904	74,555	169,109	176,525	34	32	41	40	1,12,16,858	1,12,85,896	3,71,850	3,69,191	5,09,400	5,26,418	26,86,294	27,83,029	32	33

Thus there were 7,577 more applications for disposal in the past than in the previous year, and 7,416 more applications were disposed of.

Result of applications compared.

55. The result of the applications disposed of during the last three years is given below :—

	Percentage.		
	1881	1882	1883
Completely executed	34·1	33·7	32·2
Partially executed	27·3	27·0	25·0
Wholly infructuous	38·2	39·0	42·3
Transferred	0·4	0·3	0·5

The percentage of wholly infructuous applications has risen in three years from 38 to 42, but the increase probably merely indicates that the Courts are beginning now to deal more strictly with all kinds of defaults. As will appear hereafter, the percentage of realizations has steadily risen since 1881, and this is the true test of success in execution proceedings. The proportion of completely executed decrees was highest last year in the districts noted in the margin, and lowest in Shahpur, Jullundur, Karnál and Simla.

Kohát	50
Mooltan	47
Bannu	37
Sirsa	36

Of the decrees completely executed, 94 per cent. were executed through the Courts and 6 per cent. out of Court, the corresponding proportions having been 95 per cent. and 5 per cent. in the previous year. In both years 6 per cent. of the decrees which were partially executed were adjusted out of Court.

Pending applications.

56. In all, 20,980 applications were pending at the close of the year under report as compared with 20,819 which remained over from the previous year. The largest increases were in the Ludhiána, Hoshiárpur, Gujránwála and Bannu Districts. In the Gurdáspur District the file was considerably reduced.

At the end of last year 3,428 applications had been pending for over three months, and 1,243 for over six months. The corresponding figures for 1882 were 3,276 cases pending over three months, and 1,273 cases of more than six months' standing.

Average duration.

57. The general average duration of execution proceedings was 40 days, or 1 day less than in 1882. It was much above the provincial average in the districts noted in the margin, and was lowest in the Simla, Hazára and Dera Gházi Khan Districts. In Shahpur the duration rose from 46 to 66 days, and in Bannu from 45 to 59 days.

Shahpur ...	66 days.
Gurdáspur ...	63 "
Bannu ...	59 "
Amritsar ...	56 "
Jullundur ...	50 "

Value of decrees in execution and amount realized.

58. The following table shows the total value of the decrees for money which were under execution during the past two years, the amount realized in each year, and the value of the decrees under execution at the close of each year:—

Year.	*Value of money decrees in execution.*	*Amount realized.*	*Value of decrees under execution at the close of the year.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1882 ...	1,12,16,858	35,67,544	18,01,592
1883 ...	1,12,85,896	36,78,638	18,38,502
Difference ...	+69,038	+1,11,094	+36,910

The figures show an increase of 1 per cent. in the proportion realized, if the value of the decrees under execution at the end of the year be included in the calculation. Excluding the value of such decrees, the proportion realized was 39 per cent., having been 38 per cent. in the preceding year and 36 per cent. in 1881. The proportion realized was largest (47 per cent.) in the Umballa and Hazára Districts, and was 46 per cent. in Gujrat, 44 per cent. in Lahore and 43 per cent. in Dera Ismail Khan and Dera Gházi Khan. The increase in the Umballa percentage, from 28 to 47, is thought by the Commissioner to be due to the completion of a few heavy cases, and regarded as abnormal. The proportion of realization was lowest (21 per cent.) in the Gurgaon and Hissar

Districts. In the former district the percentage, low though it is, is higher than in the preceding year. In Hissar the percentage was 28 in the previous year. Other districts which show a marked falling-off in the percentage of realizations are—Bannu, Mooltan and Ferozepore.

Realizations how effected.

59. The following figures show in what proportions the various modes of realization allowed by law were efficacious in the past and previous years :—

		Sum realized.		Percentage.	
		1882	1883	1882	1883
		Rs.	Rs.		
Paid in voluntarily	... ...	3,71,850	3,69,191	11	10
Realized	After issue but without execution of process	5,09,400	5,26,418	14	14
	By arrest only	2,39,351	2,54,109	7	7
	After imprisonment	44,733	43,501	1	1
	By attachment only	19,73,353	20,10,891	55	55
	By sale	4,28,857	4,74,528	12	13

The differences are too slight to call for remark or explanation.

Modes of coercion employed in 1882 and 1883.

60. The annexed table shows the means which were adopted for executing decrees during the past two years :—

	1882	1883
Number of applications—		
On which processes were issued but not executed ...	35,828	38,109
On which judgment-debtors were arrested but released without imprisonment	8,022	8,524
On which judgment-debtors were imprisoned ...	989	1,167
On which moveable property was attached but subsequently released	48,584	47,407
On which moveable property was sold	12,829	11,761
On which immoveable property was attached but subsequently released	5,967	6,414
On which hereditary or joint-acquired property in land was sold	30	8
On which other immoveable property was sold ...	2,312	2,197
On which action was taken under Section 305 or Section 326, Civil Procedure Code	651	754
On which possession was given of moveable property ...	494	318
Do. do. of immoveable property ...	5,881	6,464
On which specific performance was enforced	163	136
On which partition was effected	155	129
On which execution was effected otherwise than as above	1,642	63

It will be seen that in both years by far the highest figures are returned under the heads of property attached but not sold, and processes issued but not executed. The latter head, no doubt, includes processes which could not be executed because the person or property against which they were directed could not be found, but the table in the last paragraph shows that the mere issue of a process was not unfrequently effectual. The figures under the former head are very remarkable. Out of 85,342 processes which were executed last year, 63 per cent. were for the attachment of property which was subsequently released, and the amount realized by mere attachment represented 55 per cent. of the total realizations of the year, and 72 per cent. of the same realized after execution of process. From the returns of the North-West Provinces for 1882 it would seem that in those Provinces sale follows attachment in rather more than 50 per cent. of the cases.

Arrest and imprisonment.

61. The increase in the numbers of persons who were arrested and imprisoned in execution of decrees is deserving of notice, as the whole subject of imprisonment for debt is now unde rconsideration. From statistics which have been recentl yfurnished it appears that between 1878 and 1882 the number of applications for the arrest of debtors averaged 11,921 a year, of which, on the average, 14 per cent. were rejected, 22 per cent. resulted in the mere issue of a warrant of arrest, 56 per cent. in the arrest but not imprisonment, and 8 per cent. in the arrest and imprisonment, of the person proceeded against.

The amounts for which debtors were committed to prison aggregated Rs. 1,60,707 in 1883, as against Rs. 1,77,232 in the previous year. The periods of detention are compared in the following table :—

Year.	Number of persons detained			Average detention.
	Up to 1 month.	Between 1 and 3 months.	Between 3 and 6 months.	
1882 ...	645	284	134	43 days.
1883 ...	702	373	119	40 "

Sales of land in execution of decree.

62. The returns show only 8 sales of hereditary or joint-acquired property in land last year, as against 30 in 1882. The decrease is curious, as 42 sales were sanctioned by this Court last year, the number sanctioned in the previous year having been 17. Enquiry will be made on the point from the districts in which the differences are remarkable.

During the year under report 754 cases were dealt with under Section 305 or 326 of the Civil Procedure Code, as compared with 651 cases in the preceding year and 551 in 1881. The Rawalpindi and Ludhiána Districts return by far the highest figures.

It was pointed out in the Court's Report for 1882 that the entries in some of the returns under the head of decrees otherwise executed needed explanation. The explanations showed that in a large majority of cases the entries were incorrect, and this accounts for the falling-off in the figures for the year under review.

Comparative working of different grades of Courts.

63. The following table shows the comparative working of the different grades of Courts in the execution of decrees during the past and previous years :—

Class of Court.	Number of applications disposed of.		Percentage in which satisfaction was obtained in whole or in part.		Value of money decrees in execution.		Percentage realized.		Average duration.	
	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883
					Rs.	Rs.				
Sadr Courts	34,032	33,951	59	55	57,87,046	56,46,658	27	29	44	48
Small Cause Courts ...	11,996	12,989	72	66	3.63,886	4,69,396	49	42	61	16
Tahsil Courts	18,952	19,062	68	66	7.32,131	7,46.125	39	39	34	33
Munsiffs' Courts	97,944	105,988	59	55	40.84,493	42,13,342	36	35	39	41
Honorary Courts	4,674	4,535	65	66	1,99,302	2,10,375	41	40	35	44

Miscellaneous cases connected with execution proceedings.

64. Claims to and objections against the attachment of property numbered 13,077, as against 11,800 in the previous year. In 103 cases, as compared with 89 in 1882, complaints were preferred under Sections 328, 332, 334 and 335 of the Civil Procedure Code. Such complaints were most numerous in the Rawalpindi District (38). Enquiries were made, under Section 258 of the Code, regarding payments to decree-holders out of Court, in 464 cases, as compared with 321 in the year preceding. In Jullundur there were 129 such enquiries, and in Lahore 97.

Insolvency proceedings under Chapter XX of the Civil Procedure Code.

65. The following table exhibits the number of applications for a declaration of insolvency filed, disposed of and pending in 1882 and 1883 :—

Year.	Filed by judgment-debtors			Disposed of.	Pending.
	Under arrest or imprisonment.	Against whose property an order of attachment had been made.	Total.		
1882	99	184	283	262	73
1883	85	321	406	394	87

278 applications were instituted in District Courts and 128 in the Small Cause Courts. One application was made by a decree-holder in the Delhi Small Cause Court.

The largest number of applications (61) were filed in the Lahore Small Cause Court; Amritsar comes next with 41, and Umballa District with 35.

The result of the applications disposed of in the two past years is noted below:—

		1882	1883
Withdrawn or otherwise not prosecuted	...	103	138
Granted — A receiver not being appointed	...	42	59
Granted — A receiver being appointed	...	31	66
Rejected — Penal proceedings not being taken	...	84	113
Rejected — Penal proceedings being taken	...	2	18

Of the applications 31 per cent. were granted as against 27 in the previous year. While 129 persons were declared insolvents, 63 were discharged under Section 351 of the Code, and 48 were discharged on the receiver's report under Section 355, Civil Procedure Code.

Estates in the hands of receivers.

66. There were 106 insolvents' estates in the hands of receivers, as compared with 46 in the previous year. Proceedings were finally closed in regard to 30 estates, and 76 estates were under management at the close of the year. Claims to the value of Rs. 1,66,161 were admitted, and Rs. 63,173 were paid away in satisfaction of claims. Rs. 23,746 were in the hands of receivers at the beginning of the year, and Rs. 60,529 were realized during the year, of which Rs. 56,367 were disbursed and Rs. 27,908 remained in the hands of receivers at the close of the year.

H.—Witnesses.

Attendance of witnesses.

67. The subjoined table shows the number of witnesses who attended or were summoned to attend Civil Courts in the Punjab during the years 1882 and 1883. The increase in the figures for 1883 corresponds approximately with the increase in the number of contested cases decided last year.

	Number.		Difference	*Percentage.*	
	1882	1883		1882	1883
Witnesses who appeared voluntarily ...	130,636	135,506	+4,870	35	35
Witnesses for whose appearance a summons was issued ...	246,064	252,899	+6,835	65	65
Total ...	376,700	388,405	+11,705		

Payment of expenses to witnesses.

68. In both years not quite 76 per cent. of the witnesses who were summoned to attend Civil Courts received their expenses. The average sum paid last year was 9 annas and 1 pie, as against 10 annas and 1 pie in 1882 and 9 annas and 11 pies in 1881. The district averages range from Rs. 1-3-6 in Montgomery and Rs. 1-1-5 in Bannu to 5 annas and 5 pies at Simla.

Average cost of processes.

69. The average cost of obtaining the issue of a process was 4 annas and 8 pies in 1881, 4 annas and 7 pies in 1882, and 4 annas and 6 pies in 1883.

PART II.—SMALL CAUSE COURTS.

Business of District Small Cause Courts.

70. The annexed statement shows the business of the District Small Cause Courts during the year :—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Court.	Number of cases on the file.								Disposed of without trial.		Without contest.		With contest.		Total disposed of.		Pending at the end of the year.		Pending for more than three months at the close of the year.		Average duration.						Cases in columns 4 and 5 brought by bankers and shopkeepers against agriculturists.	
	Pending from last year.		Instituted.		Re-instituted under Sections 24 and 103 of Act X of 1877, or Section 41 of Act XI of 1865.		Total.														Contested.		Uncontested.		Percentage of contested cases.			
	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883	1882	1883
Delhi ..	238	262	2,768	2,764	103	107	3,159	3,135	231	424	1,437	1,462	1,079	1,074	2,997	2,960	252	153	..	..	21	36	14	16	21	16	46	89
Simla ..	63	66	1,457	1,551	21	24	1,541	1,642	230	302	847	905	238	258	1,473	1,545	68	98	2	31	27	17	41	41	21	26	..	..
Amritsar ..	219	276	3,531	3,975	151	175	3,901	4,386	681	675	1,911	2,067	1,038	1,338	3,625	4,080	276	306	1	..	22	32	21	21	29	21	213	250
Lahore ..	478	385	5,196	5,297	150	129	5,816	*5,808	624	643	2,113	3,281	1,693	1,842	5,459	5,466	323	242	50	40	31	29	17	16	15	16	511	458
Total .	1,048	989	12,942	13,587	425	439	14,415	14,970	1,916	2,134	7,308	7,735	4,201	4,512	13,495	14,071	919	899	53	71	31	30	22	20	22	19	770	837

* Includes 5 cases received by transfer.

Institutions have increased 5 per cent. on the numbers of the year previous, which showed an increase of 504 cases over 1881 The increase is apparent in all the Courts except Delhi, but is most noticeable in the Amritsar Court, where the increase was 11 per cent.

The total number of cases for disposal by Small Cause Courts was 14,970, as against 14,415 in 1882, of which 14,071 were disposed of during the year, leaving a balance of 899 as against 989 in the previous year. There were 71 cases pending over three months, of which 40 were in the Lahore Court.

Manner of disposal.

71. The manner of disposal has been as follows in the two past years, and calls for no special remark :—

		Percentage. 1882	1883
Without trial	... ...	14	15
„ contest	... ...	55	55
After contest	for plaintiff ...	24	23
	for defendant ...	7	7

The percentage of contested suits was, as in the previous year, highest in the Delhi Court. In Lahore it fell off from 31 to 28, and in the Amritsar Court it rose from 29 to 33 per cent.

Average duration.

72. There is a satisfactory reduction in the average duration of both contested and uncontested suits as compared with 1882 in the Delhi and Amritsar Courts, but in the Simla Court it was unnecessarily high.

Suits by bankers and shopkeepers against agriculturists.

73. Of the suits instituted only 6 per cent. were brought by shopkeepers and bankers against agriculturists.

Attendance of witnesses.

74. The following table shows the attendance of witnesses in the different Courts :—

1	2	3	4	5			6		
COURTS.	Number of witnesses who appeared without summons.	Number of witnesses for whom summonses were issued, whether they appeared or not.	Number of witnesses who received allowances for expenses.	Average amount paid to each witness entered in column 4.			Average cost of each process issued to obtain attendance of witnesses.		
				Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Delhi	1,482	2,844	993	0	6	4	0	4	0
Simla	542	986	806	0	5	0	0	4	0
Amritsar	287	4,061	4,061	0	6	7	0	4	0
Lahore	1,958	7,327	6,832	0	4	11	0	4	0
TOTAL ...	4,269	15,168	12,692	0	5	7	0	4	0

The increase in the number of witnesses who appeared without summons and for whom summonses were issued is general in all the Courts, but most remarkable in the Delhi Court. The remarks made in the Report of last year as to the Amritsar returns apply to those of the year under review, which show that every witness for whom a summons was issued received allowance for expenses—a result that is scarcely credible.

Application for re-trial.

75. Four hundred and one applications for re-trial were disposed of, as compared with 321 in the preceding year. The results for the two years are noted below :—

		Percentage. 1882	1883
Rejected	... ...	66	79
Admitted	Former order upheld ...	18	11
	„ reversed or modified	16	10

A much larger proportion of the applications were rejected this year, but of those that were admitted, defendants were successful in 50 per cent. of the applications.

References to Chief Court.

76. In all, 8 cases were referred to the Chief Court, as against 2 in the previous year. The Delhi Court referred 4 out of the 8.

77. Seventeen trials were held before two Judges, as compared with 24 in the previous year and 75 in 1881. In 9 cases the former order was maintained, in 6 it was reversed, and in 2 modified. In the Delhi Court out of 8 trials the order was reversed in 5.

Trials by two Judges.

78. The subjoined table shows the working of the Small Cause Courts in the execution of decrees. The totals of the previous year have been added for facility of reference :—

Execution of decrees.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Court.	Total number of applications for execution.	Transferred.	Completely executed.	Partially executed.	Wholly infructuous.	Total number disposed of.	Percentage of decrees completely executed to the number disposed of.	Average duration.	Value of money decrees put in execution.	Amount realized: Voluntarily.	Amount realized: After issue but without execution of process.	Amount realized: After execution of coercive process.	Percentage realized.
									Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Delhi ...	2,289	178	709	1,029	330	2,246	31	11	1,25,800	13,422	11,913	12,437	30
Simla ...	841	3	166	84	524	777	21	18	40,332	2,718	...	8,133	27
Amritsar ...	1,979	...	628	518	778	1,924	33	16	95 227	13,153	12,707	12,150	40
Lahore ...	4,581	130	1,475	1,815	703	4,123	36	15	88,731	34,535	1,936	18,149	62
Total ... 1883	9,690	311	2,978	3,446	2,335	9,070	33	14	3,50.090	63,828	26,556	50,869	40
Total ... 1882	9,375	67	3,653	2,991	2,117	8,828	41	16	2,93,850	59,299	14,346	57,591	44

The above table shows that there was an increase of 3·3 per cent. in the work for disposal, whilst only 2·7 per cent. in excess of last year was disposed of. In the Simla Court there was a large falling-off in the number of cases disposed of, but in Amritsar the increase from 1,348 to 1,924 was remarkable.

The general results were—

Completely executed	...	...	32·8 per cent.
Partially "	...	...	38 "
Wholly infructuous	...	...	25·8 "
Transferred ...	...	...	3·4 "

The proportion of decrees completely executed was highest in the Lahore Court (36 per cent.), though the proportion was 20 per cent. below that of the year preceding. In the Amritsar Court the percentage has risen from 27 to 33, and in Simla it has fallen from 25 to 21.

The average duration has decreased from 16 to 14 days, but it has risen considerably in the Simla and Amritsar Courts.

The percentage of realizations has fallen from 44 to 40, the Delhi Court showing a decrease of 8 per cent., and the Amritsar Court an increase of 7 per cent., as compared with the previous year. The Lahore Court, as last year, shows the highest proportion of realizations, but it is principally the voluntary payments that bring about this result.

Cantonment Courts.

79. The following statement shows the amount of work disposed of by the Cantonment Small Cause Courts :—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Number of cases on the file												Average duration.		
Court.	Pending from last year.	Instituted.	Re-admitted under Sections 99 and 108, Act X of 1877.	Received by transfer.	Total.	Disposed of without trial.	Without contest.	With contest.	Grand total disposed of.	Pending at the end of the year.	Pending for more than months at the close of the year.	Percentage of contested cases.	Contested.	Uncontested.	General average duration.
Umballa ...	12	976	10	...	998	177	556	234	967	31	1	24	15	16	16
Simla Hills ...	15	326	9	.	348	46	193	98	337	11	1	29	38	21	26
Jullundur ...	11	230	12	...	253	22	146	78	246	7	1	32	16	16	16
Siálkot ...	17	392	2	...	411	64	243	95	402	9	...	24	13	10	11
Meean Meer ...	16	704	...	...	720	112	402	203	717	3	...	28	10	8	9
Ferozepore ...	41	995	18	...	1,049	111	792	118	1,021	28	...	12	21	15	16
Rawalpindi ...	24	2,367	57	...	2,448	539	1,475	429	2,443	5	...	18	27	18	20
Mooltan ...	36	875	10	1	922	109	589	202	900	22	...	22	48	7	17
Peshâwar ...	37	751	6	...	794	85	558	135	778	16	.	17	17	14	14
Total... 1883...	207	7,616	119	1	7,943	1,265	4,954	1,592	7,811	132	3	20	24	14	16
Total... 1882...	282	6,959	89	...	7,330	1,207	4,988	1,528	7,123	207	2	21	20	13	14

There was an increase of 9 per cent. in the institutions as compared with the previous year, the most marked increase being in the Rawalpindi Court, while 688 more cases were disposed of than in 1882. The proportion of contested suits was highest in the Jullundur Court. The pending file was considerably reduced, and there were only 3 cases pending over three months. The average duration was higher, for both contested and uncontested suits, than last year, and was particularly high for contested suits in Simla and Mooltan.

Applications for execution of decrees for disposal by these Courts were 10 per cent. more than in 1882. Of 4,061 applications, 3,919 were disposed of with an average duration of 19 days.

The Mooltan Court stands conspicuous for the very high proportion of decrees completely satisfied.

Of the amount in execution 45 per cent. was realized as against 30 per cent. in the preceding year, the Mooltan Court again showing most favorably with 70 per cent.

The amount paid voluntarily rose from Rs. 6,490 to Rs. 11,440, the largest sum so paid being in the Meean Meer Court. The annexed table gives the general results of execution proceedings in the Cantonment Courts :—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
										Amount realized			
Court.	Total number of applications for execution.	Transferred.	Completely executed.	Partially executed.	Wholly infructuous.	Total number disposed of.	Percentage of decrees completely executed to the number disposed of.	Average duration.	Value of money decrees put in execution.	Voluntarily.	After issue but without execution of process.	After execution of coercive process.	Percentage realized.
									Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Umballa ...	478	...	153	95	218	466	33	14	21,979	2,448	602	6,015	41
Simla Hills ...	218	...	54	77	81	212	25	14	7,497	112	206	4,267	61
Jullundur ...	161	...	34	28	93	155	22	7	5,174	313	357	219	17
Siálkot ...	201	...	41	46	94	181	23	28	6,213	...	556	1,478	33
Meean Meer ...	458	7	136	166	135	444	31	17	14,792	4,502	1,149	2,281	54
Ferozepore ...	557	4	149	149	218	520	29	16	12,036	665	1,904	1,566	34
Rawalpindi ...	1,223	4	332	192	683	1,211	27	22	32,454	3,080	1,232	10,142	44
Mooltan ...	373	4	228	58	60	350	65	31	9,451	42	23	6,518	70
Peshâwar ...	392	3	131	147	99	380	34	19	9,710	278	1,326	2,796	45
Total ... 1883	4,061	22	1,258	958	1,681	3,919	32	19	1,19,306	11,440	7,355	35,282	45
Total ... 1882	3,679	7	1,120	1,030	1,335	3,492	32	18	1,27,234	6,490	9,913	34,224	39

PART III.—APPELLATE COURTS SUBORDINATE TO THE CHIEF COURT.

Appeals compared with appealable decisions.

80. The annexed tabular statement shows the number of appeals preferred to the Courts of Deputy Commissioners and of Commissioners for each district of the Province.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	District Courts.					Divisional Courts.							
District.	Number of original contested cases in which an appeal lay to the District Court.	Appeals: To Assistant Commissioners.	Appeals: To Judicial Assistants.	Appeals: To Deputy Commissioners.	Appeals: Total to District Courts.	Number of original contested cases appealable to the Divisional Court.	Number of appeals in which District Courts modified or reversed the order of the lower Court.	Appeals: From Courts of first instance.	Appeals: From subordinate appellate Courts.	Appeals: Total to Divisional Courts.	Grand Total.	Percentage of first appeals to decisions appealable.	Percentage of further appeals to decisions in column 8.
Delhi ...	1,470	...	411	..	411	327	165	90	79	169	580	28	48
Gurgaon ...	619	..	...	159	159	221	59	76	20	96	255	28	34
Karnál ...	702	...	...	176	176	354	40	143	18	161	337	30	45
Hissar ...	273	...	...	82	82	322	22	107	12	119	201	31	54
Rohtak ...	875	...	197	56	163	426	64	160	11	171	334	24	32
Sirsa ...	760	...	...	201	201	265	34	75	16	91	292	27	47
Umballa ...	2,948	..	736	..	736	279	229	145	79	224	960	27	35
Ludhiána ...	3,341	...	991	149	1,140	318	148	164	46	210	1,350	36	31
Simla ...	122	...	11	...	11	68	2	10	...	10	21	11	...
Jullundur ...	4,818	...	934	25	959	364	242	213	106	319	1,278	23	43
Hoshiárpur ...	5 608	...	1,332	81	1,413	478	249	*410	66	476	1,869	29	26
Kángra ...	2,251	24	401	33	458	191	145	32	62	94	552	20	42
Amritsar ...	3,324	...	740	...	740	445	144	227	65	292	1,032	26	45
Gurdáspur ...	4,198	...	764	...	764	601	169	214	59	273	1,037	20	35
Siálkot ...	6,151	...	931	134	1,065	295	321	113	102	215	1,280	18	31
Lahore ...	2,635	...	374	...	374	682	74	272	26	298	672	20	35
Gujránwála ...	1,835	...	613	59	672	471	211	83	66	149	821	32	31
Ferozepore ...	3,324	..	878	9	887	654	161	227	85	312	1,199	29	52
Rawalpindi ...	3,351	...	657	...	657	683	189	217	81	298	955	22	43
Jhelum ...	2,307	155	332	...	487	154	153	63	56	119	606	22	36
Gujrat ...	2,733	..	716	...	716	90	90	53	57	110	826	24	63
Shahpur ...	1,448	...	353	7	360	61	105	38	32	70	430	26	30
Mooltan ...	1,395	...	285	...	285	295	54	124	8	132	367	21	15
Jhang ...	949	...	...	186	186	330	39	84	7	91	277	21	18
Montgomery ...	916	...	...	123	123	78	44	30	17	47	170	15	38
Muzaffargarh ...	1,097	...	...	142	142	52	39	22	15	37	179	14	38
Dera Ismail Khan ...	1,378	...	190	...	190	152	46	42	21	63	253	15	46
Dera Ghází Khan ...	2,438	...	147	53	200	310	50	41	7	48	248	9	14
Bannu ...	1,913	88	169	7	264	315	79	71	20	91	355	15	25
Peshâwar ...	2,606	...	526	...	526	392	135	221	76	297	823	26	56
Hazára ...	1,257	...	...	188	188	181	59	62	23	85	273	17	38
Kohát ...	912	...	...	93	93	138	22	20	5	25	163	10	22
Total ... 1883	69 954	267	12,548	1,963	14,778	9 942	3,553	3,849	1,343	5,192	19,970	23	38
Total ... 1882	66,478	42	11,801	2,079	13,422	11,057	3,092	4,007	1,208	5,215	18,637	22	39

Excludes 248 appeals transferred to Court of Additional Commissioner.

There was a further increase in the number of appeals instituted, which were 7 per cent. in excess of those of the preceding year, the ratio of appeals to appealable cases being 23. This increase occurred in appeals to District Courts, and was most marked in the following :—

Ludhiána	from	...	...	...	753	to 1,140
Hoshiárpur	„	...	...	...	1,038	„ 1,413
Jullundur	„	...	...	...	700	„ 959
Gurdáspur	„	...	...	...	507	„ 764

The greatest falling-off in the number of appeals as compared with 1882 occurred in—

Bannu from	...	...	...	459	to 264
Rawalpindi from	...	...	...	780	„ 657

The proportion of appeals preferred to contested cases was 21 per cent. in the District Courts.

The number of cases appealable to Divisional Courts fell off by 10 per cent., while the number of first appeals decreased from 4,007 to 3,849, and further appeals rose from 1,208 to 1,343.

The percentage of first appeals to appealable decisions was 1 per cent. higher than last year, whilst the proportion of further appeals was 1 per cent. lower. The ratio of first appeals was highest in the Ludhiána District, and lowest in Dera Ghází Khan. In further appeals the ratio was as high as 63 per cent. in Gujrat, and as low as 14 per cent. in Dera Ghází Khan.

A.—District Courts.

Number of appeals for disposal, disposed of and pending.

81. Including 1,527 appeals pending from the year preceding, there were in all 16,833 appeals for disposal; of these, 14,740 were disposed of during the year, leaving a pending balance of 2,093, or 566 more than in 1882.

Distribution of business.

82. A comparison of the distribution of the appellate work in District Courts during the last two years is given below :—

	Percentage.	
	1882	1883
Deputy Commissioners	15·5	13·3
Judicial Assistants	84·2	84·9
Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners	0·3	1·8

It will be seen that whilst Deputy Commissioners took up less of the appellate work, the proportion disposed of by Judicial Assistants and by Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners specially empowered was slightly in excess of that of the previous year. Of the Deputy Commissioners, those of Jhang, Karnál, Sirsa and Hazára disposed of the largest number of appeals, while the work done by Judicial Assistants was heaviest in the following districts :—Jullundur, Hoshiárpur, Siálkot, Ferozepore and Ludhiána.

In districts where there was a Judicial Assistant the Deputy Commissioners took up 469 appeals as against 608 in the previous year.

Manner of disposal.

83. The manner in which the appeals were disposed of in the two past years is shown in this statement :—

	Percentage.	
	1882.	1883.
Summarily rejected under Section 551, Civil Procedure Code	18·5	18·9
Struck off for default or under Section 557, Civil Procedure Code, or otherwise not prosecuted	5·0	4·3
Order of lower Court confirmed *ex-parte*	2·6	4·5
" " " after contest	37·3	36·0
" " modified	6·5	7·0
" " reversed	16·3	17·1
Remanded under Section 562, Civil Procedure Code ...	13·8	12·2

The proportion of cases in which the order was confirmed *ex-parte* shows an increase from 2·6 to 4·5 per cent. The percentage of cases in which orders were interfered with was nearly 2 per cent. more than last year.

In the following districts the proportion of orders modified and reversed in appeal were high :—

Gurgaon	35 per cent.
Hazára	31 "
Umballa	29 "
Kángra	
Siálkot	

The percentage of cases remanded was not so high as in the previous year, and was greatest in the following districts :—

Hoshiárpur	17 per cent.
Gujránwála	
Shahpur	
Dera Ghází Khan	
Rohtak	16 "
Amritsar	

The proportion was lowest in the following districts :—

Sirsa	...	...	4 per cent.
Umballa	...	...	

Districts in which the arrears were heaviest, and longest pending appeals.

84. Of the 2,093 appeals undecided at the end of the year, 457 had been pending over three months. Of these last, no less than 261 were in the Ludhiána District, 89 in Gujrat and 70 in Rohtak. In Ludhiána 179 and in Gujrat the whole 89 were in the Judicial Assistant's Court. These two districts were mentioned in the Report of last year also as amongst the four which showed the largest pending files in the Province.

The dates of the two oldest appeals pending were the 8th March 1883 (in the Ludhiána District) and the 12th March 1883 (in the Gujrat District).

Average duration.

Simla	... 88 days.
Delhi	... 86 "
Gujrat	... 55 "
Umballa	... 53 "

85. The average duration of appeals in District Courts was 38 days, as compared with 35 days in the previous year. The average was highest in the districts noted in the margin. The Deputy Commissioner of Delhi explains the high average to be due to some old cases which had been pending for a long time having now been disposed of. Appeals were most promptly disposed of in Lahore, Hissar, Dera Ghází Khan and Kohát. In Delhi the average duration has risen from 43 to 86 days.

Other particulars of disposal.

86. In 629 cases, as against 597 in the previous year, issues were referred to the lower Court under Section 566, and additional evidence was called for under Section 569 in 389 as against 364 in 1882. The largest number were referred back under the former section in the Siálkot, Delhi, Jullundur, Gujránwála and Pesháwar Districts. The number of cases in which additional evidence was called for was largest in Gujránwála, Jhelum, Jullundur and Bannu. In the districts of the Mooltan Division scarcely any use was made of the powers under the above sections.

Twenty-two objections were filed by respondents, against 9 in the preceding year. Eight objections were allowed.

Value and cost of appeals in District Courts.

87. The value and relative cost of appeals disposed of by District Courts are shown in the annexed table, to which the totals of the previous year have been added for facility of reference.

Although the number of appeals for money or moveable property was less than in the previous year, the aggregate value was nearly 2 per cent. higher.

SCALE OF VALUATION.	*Number of appeals*		*Aggregate value of appeals*		*Aggregate cost of appeals*		*Average value of appeals*						*Average cost of appeals*						*Percentage of cost to value*	
	For money or moveable property.	In other suits.	For money or moveable property.	In other suits.	For money or moveable property.	In other suits.	For money or moveable property.			In other suits.			For money or moveable property			In other suits.			For money or moveable property.	In other suits.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.		
Not exceeding Rs. 10	1,467	1,579	9,144	8 990	2,920	3,626	6	3	8	5	10	8	1	15	10	2	4	11	32	40
" " " 50	3,524	2,414	1,01,434	68,091	14 530	11,426	28	12	9	28	3	3	4	2	0	4	11	9	14	17
" " " 100	1,571	1,059	1,14 015	78,480	13,909	10,092	72	9	7	74	1	8	8	3	8	9	8	6	11	12
" " " 300	1,120	729	2,01,385	1,28,555	21,432	14,288	179	12	10	176	4	7	19	2	2	19	9	1	10	11
" " " 500	158	97	60,566	37,601	6,014	3,745	383	5	4	389	10	8	38	1	0	38	9	8	9	9
Appeals of which the value cannot be fixed.	...	650	...	...	...	7,173	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	..	..	11	0	7	...	...
Total 1883 ...	7,840	6,528	4,86,544	3,21,917	58 805	50 350	62	0	10	54	12	2	7	8	0	7	5	6	12	13
Total 1882 ...	8,057	5,196	4,77,177	2,48,253	57,842	39,618	59	4	6	53	6	4	7	3	0	7	0	11	12	13

The following abstract table shows the number of appeals of each class, and the proportion they bear to the total number of appeals disposed of; and also compares the average value and cost, and the ratio of cost to value in each class of appeals :—

1		2	3	4	5	6
Description of appeal.		Number.	Percentage of total number disposed of.	Average value.	Average cost.	Percentage of cost to value
				Rs. A. P	Rs. A. P.	
For money or moveable property ...	1883	7,840	55	62 0 10	7 8 0	12
	1882	8 057	61	59 4 6	7 3 0	12
In other suits ...	1883 ...	6 528	45	54 12 2	7 5 6	13
	1882	5,196	39	53 6 4	7 0 11	13

The proportion of appeals relating to money or moveable property shows a decrease from 61 to 55 per cent.

The average value of both classes of appeals was somewhat higher than in the previous year, and the average cost was also greater.

Miscellaneous appeals.

88. Besides appeals from decrees, 878 miscellaneous appeals, as against 730 of the previous year, came before the District Courts for disposal during 1883. The Ludhiána and Gurdáspur Districts show the largest increase. The nature of the appeals is noted below :—

	1882	1883
Appeals preferred under Section 588, Civil Procedure Code ...	559	636
Other miscellaneous appeals	171	242

Including 59 pending appeals, there were in all 878 for disposal; of these, 806 were disposed of within the year in the following manner :—

	Percentage.	
	1882	1883
Summarily rejected	24	18
Struck off for default or otherwise not prosecuted ...	7	4
Order of lower Court confirmed	36	35
" " modified	2	3
" " reversed	17	20
Cases remanded under Section 562, Civil Procedure Code ...	14	20

The proportion of appeals remanded, and those in which the orders of the lower Courts were interfered with, shows an increase.

Of the 72 appeals pending, the largest numbers were in the Umballa, Ludhiána and Gujrat Districts. There were 5 appeals pending over three months, 3 of which were in the Gujrat District.

The average duration of appeals was 28 days, or 1 day higher than in 1882. The duration was highest in the Delhi District, being 61 days.

The oldest appeal was in the Gujrat District, having been instituted on 7th August 1883.

B.—Divisional Courts.

Institutions.

89. The following comparative table shows in detail the appeals instituted in the Courts of Commissioners during the years 1882 and 1883, and also the number of decisions, original and appellate, from which an appeal lay to a Divisional Court.

Division.	1882					1883				
	Number of original cases appealable.	Number of appeals in which District Courts modified or reversed the order of the lower Court.	Appeals			Number of original cases appealable.	Number of appeals in which District Courts modified or reversed the order of the lower Courts.	Appeals		
			From Courts of first instance.	From subordinate appellate Courts.	Total.			From Courts of first instance.	From subordinate appellate Courts.	Total.
Delhi	608	200	253	117	370	902	264	309	117	426
Hissar	1,305	116	457	55	512	1,013	90	342	39	381
Umballa	838	266	322	99	421	665	379	319	125	444
Jullundur	1,884	424	658	150	808	1,033	636	655	284	889
Amritsar	1,866	484	680	174	854	1,341	634	554	226	780
Lahore	1,768	469	580	180	760	1,757	446	582	177	759
Rawalpindi	1,048	585	208	238	446	988	537	371	226	597
Mooltan	434	148	275	60	335	755	176	260	47	307
Derajat	558	211	147	66	213	777	175	154	48	202
Peshâwar	948	189	427	69	496	711	216	308	104	407
Total ...	11,057	3,092	4,007	1,208	5,215	9,942	3,553	3,849	1,343	5,192

The proportion of appeals preferred to the number of cases appealable was 38 per cent., as compared with 36 per cent. in the previous year. In the Jullundur Division the proportion was as high as 53 per cent., in Peshâwar and Umballa it was 43 and 42 per cent. respectively, while in the Derajat Division the proportion was only 21 per cent.

There is a very slight falling-off in the total number of appeals preferred as compared with 1882. First appeals show a decrease of 4 per cent., but further appeals increased by 10 per cent., the excess being mostly in the Jullundur, Amritsar and Peshâwar Divisions. First appeals increased largely in the Rawalpindi and Delhi Divisions, and fell off in the Amritsar, Peshâwar and Hissar Divisions.

Appeals for disposal, disposed of and pending.

90. The table below gives the result of appeals to Divisional Courts :—

Division.	Number of appeals for disposal		Number of appeals disposed of		Number of appeals pending		Average duration.		Percentage of appeals				
	By Commissioner.	By Additional Commissioner.	By Commissioner.	By Additional Commissioner.	Before Commissioner.	Before Additional Commissioner.	Commissioner's Court.	Additional Commissioner's Court.	Transferred, struck off for default, or otherwise not prosecuted.	In which the order of the Lower Court was Upheld.	Modified.	Reversed.	Remanded under Section 562, Civil Procedure Code.
Delhi	571	...	340	...	231	...	145	...	7	53	7	19	14
Hissar	489	...	448	...	41	...	49	...	5	69	2	18	6
Umballa	446	125	322	119	124	6	39	156	2	65	4	24	5
Jullundur	472	1,194	403	877	69	317	146	131	5	57	11	20	7
Amritsar	615	226	491	112	124	114	54	93	6	63	6	18	7
Lahore	395	619	349	435	46	184	61	101	7	61	7	18	7
Rawalpindi	505	262	425	188	80	74	61	102	2	62	4	22	10
Mooltan	369	...	243	...	126	...	98	...	5	54	5	15	21
Derajat	266	...	201	...	65	...	141	...	3	69	6	12	10
Peshâwar	...	434	...	347	...	87	...	43	2	65	9	19	5
Total ... 1883	4,128	2,860	3,222	2,078	906	782	83	107	5	61	7	19	8
Total ... 1882	4,021	2,601	3,016	1,992	1,005	609	65	72	4	60	6	23	7

Although the number of appeals instituted was less than last year, the number for disposal was 366 more. There were in all 6,988 appeals for disposal, of which 5,300 were disposed of during the year, leaving a balance of 1,688 appeals undisposed of, as against 1,614 in the preceding year. Commissioners disposed of 206 more appeals, and Additional Commissioners 86 more, than in the previous year; and the pending file in the Commissioners' Courts was reduced from 1,005 to 906, whilst that of Additional Commissioners increased from 609 to 782. The Commissioners of Amritsar, Hissar, Rawalpindi and Jullundur

disposed of the largest number of appeals, and the Commissioner of the Derajat of the fewest (201). The Additional Commissioners and the Civil Judge of Peshâwar disposed of 2,078 appeals as against 1,992 in the previous year. The Additional Commissioner of Jullundur disposed of 996 appeals as against 893, and the Additional Commissioner of Lahore 735 as against 588 in 1882. The highest figures of pending appeals at the end of the year were 231, in the Court of the Commissioner of Delhi, and 317 in that of the Additional Commissioner, Jullundur. The most marked increase has occurred in the pending files of the Courts of the Commissioners of Delhi, Mooltan and Umballa. The Commissioner of Jullundur reduced his pending file from 408 to 69.

There were 682 appeals pending over three months, of which 219 were in Jullundur and 105 in Lahore, Delhi coming next with 93.

Oldest pending appeal, and average duration.

91. The date of the oldest appeal was 19th April 1882 (in the Court of the Commissioner of Rawalpindi). The average duration of these appeals was 92 days for the whole, 83 days in the Commissioners' Courts and 107 days in those of the Additional Commissioners, whilst for the previous year the figures were 65 and 72. The average for the Court of the Commissioner of Umballa was again the lowest, whilst it was highest in the Jullundur, Delhi and Derajat Courts. In the Hissar and Rawalpindi Divisions the average duration is lower than in 1882.

Result of appeals in 1882 and 1883.

92. The proportion of reversals was highest in the Umballa and Rawalpindi Divisions, and lowest in Derajat.

The proportion of cases remanded was, on the whole, 1 per cent. higher than in the previous year, and was greatest in the Mooltan Division (21 per cent.), Delhi coming next with a proportion of 14 per cent.

Additional evidence was called for in 106 cases as compared with 28 in the previous year, while 16 objections were filed, of which 8 were successful.

Value and cost of appeals.

93. Details as to the value and cost of appeals in Commissioners' Courts will be found in the annexed table :—

Scale of Valuation.	Number of appeals		Aggregate value of appeals		Aggregate cost of appeals		Average value of appeals		Average cost of appeals		Percentage of cost to value	
	For money or moveable property.	In other suits.	For money or moveable property.	In other suits.	For money or moveable property.	In other suits.	For money or moveable property.	In other suits.	For money or moveable property.	In other suits.	For money or moveable property.	In other suits.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs. A. P.	Rs A P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A P		
Not exceeding Rs. 10	81	507	595	3,040	351	2,030	7 5 6	5 15 11	4 5 4	4 0 0	59	66
" " 50	240	912	8,083	24,872	1,652	6,203	33 9 6	27 4 4	6 14 1	6 12 9	20	24
" " 100	261	487	20,151	36,261	3,167	5,683	77 3 4	74 7 4	12 2 1	11 10 9	15	16
" " 300	354	562	77,604	1,07,378	8,089	12,198	202 1 6	191 0 11	20 8 8	21 11 2	10	10
" " 500	161	150	62,276	77,711	6,156	7,909	386 12 11	409 0 1	38 1 2	41 10 0	9	10
" " 1,000	160	148	1,16,207	1,10,229	10,267	9,845	726 4 8	744 12 7	64 2 0	66 8 8	8	8
" " 5,000	119	88	2,87,836	2,26,759	20,568	16,775	2,414 9 4	2,576 12 10	172 13 5	190 10 0	7	8
" " 10,000	13	3	1,03,974	19,400	6,669	1,594	7,998 0 0	6,466 10 8	513 0 0	531 5 4	6	8
" " 1,00,000	10	7	3,61,911	1,57,535	10,779	3,144	36,191 1 7	22,505 0 0	1,077 14 4	1,163 6 10	3	5
Exceeding " 1,00,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	..	..
Appeals of which the value cannot be fixed.	..	367	..	..	..	12,797	.. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	14 9 1	..	..
TOTAL .. 1883	1,429	3,771	10,38,117	7,62,182	67,678	83,178	726 7 5	262 12 10	47 5 10	24 3 11	6	8
TOTAL .. 1882	1,358	3,584	7,60,944	6,19,477	59,785	75,800	560 5 5	220 2 3	44 0 5	26 13 3	8	10

The following table shows the number of appeals in each class, their average value and cost, and the ratio of cost to value in each class :—

Description of appeal.		Number.	Percentage of total number disposed of.	Average value.	Average cost.	Percentage of cost to value.
				Rs. A. P	Rs. A. P.	
For money or moveable property ...	1883	1,429	27	726 7 5	47 5 10	6
	1882	1,358	27	560 5 5	44 0 5	8
In other suits	1883	3,771	73	262 12 10	24 3 11	8
	1882	3,584	73	220 2 3	26 13 3	10

It will be seen from the above that the proportion of cost to value is lower in both classes of appeals than it was in 1882.

Miscellaneous appeals.

94. The following table shows the number of miscellaneous appeals instituted, decided and pending in Divisional Courts during the past year :—

	Instituted.	*Decided.*	*Pending.*
Appeals under Section 588, Civil Procedure Code ...	239	244	44
Other miscellaneous appeals	122	122	25
Total ...	361	366	69

As compared with the preceding year the number instituted was less, the number disposed of larger, and the pending file somewhat reduced.

The annexed table of percentages shows the manner of disposal for the two past years :—

	1882	1883
Transferred	...	1
Summarily rejected	21	21
Struck off for default or otherwise not prosecuted ...	4	6
Order of lower Court confirmed	42	39
" " modified	1	2
" " reversed	28	23
Cases remanded under Section 562, Civil Procedure Code	4	8

The percentage of orders reversed shows a decrease of 5 per cent., and those remanded an increase of 4 per cent.

The number of cases referred to the lower Court under Section 566, Civil Procedure Code, for the trial of issues was 27, of which 24 were referred by the Amritsar Divisional Court.

There were 69 appeals pending, of which 22 had been so for more than three months. The average duration was 57 days, as against 46 days in the previous year. The duration was as high as 104 days in the Delhi Court, while in the Jullundur and Derajat Divisions it was 94 and 93 days, respectively.

The oldest case pending was of the 14th May 1883 in the Rawalpindi Divisional Court.

PART IV.—CIVIL BUSINESS OF THE CHIEF COURT.

Work of Chief Court during 1883 compared with the work of the North-Western Provinces High Court during 1882.

95. With the exception of nine weeks in the summer, when vacancies caused by Judges going on privilege leave were not filled up, the Chief Court was composed of 5 Judges during the year under report. It will be interesting, therefore, to compare their outturn of work with a year's work of the High Court of the North-Western Provinces, which also consists of 5 Judges. The figures of the latter Court for 1883 are not at present available. Those for 1882 have accordingly been taken.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Criminal business.				*Civil business.*						
	Original trials.	References under Section 237, Criminal Procedure Code.	Appeals.	Applications for revision.	Original suits.	Appeals under Section 10 of the letters patent constituting the N. W. P High Court, Sec. 17 of the Punjab Courts Act.	First and further appeals from decrees.	Second appeals from decrees.	First and further appeals from orders.	Second appeals from orders.	Miscellaneous cases (judicial).
Chief Court of the Punjab during 1883 ...	2	91	556	1,218	1	...	643	2,302	80	72	799
High Court of the North-Western Provinces during 1882 ...	7	53	570	496	5	4	112	1,497	152	92	320
Difference, taking North-Western Provinces disposals as the standard ..	-5	+38	-14	+722	-4	-4	+531	+805	-72	-20	+479

Column 8 only shows first appeals from original decrees in the North-West Provinces Court The Chief Court figures consist of 3 first appeals from original decrees and 640 further appeals from decrees passed by Commissioners in appeal reversing or modifying the decree of the Court of original jurisdiction Similarly, the Chief Court figures in column 10 consist of 38 first appeals and 42 further appeals. The figures in column 12 in the case of both Courts exclude applications made to the Court to exercise its powers under Section 622, Civil Procedure Code, which were rejected summarily without calling for the record of the case.

The Judges believe that the figures will show that, if arrears were not cleared off during the year under report as rapidly as was hoped when two Additional Judges were appointed in November 1882, the slow progress is not at all events due to any want of endeavour on their part.

Civil appeals.

96. The Court's civil appellate business has again increased. In seven years this branch of the Court's work has increased from 1,980 appeals instituted in 1876 to 2,813 instituted last year. The figures for the year 1876 have been taken as the standard for comparison, for they were the highest on record until 1880.

Taking the figures of the last two years, it will be seen from the annexed table that there was in the year under report an increase of 236 in the total number of institutions, which was most marked in second appeals from decrees and further appeals from orders. The increase extends to every division of the Province, except Mooltan, the Derajat and Pesháwar, and was greatest in institutions from the Jullundur Division, where, it will be remembered, a large number of settlement appeals was transferred to the Divisional Court towards the end of 1882.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DESCRIPTION OF APPEALS.	Year.	Number of appeals instituted.	Number of appeals for disposal.	Number disposed of.	*Percentage of appeals*							Average duration.
					Transferred.	Dismissed for default.	Rejected.	Confirmed.	Modified.	Reversed.	Remanded.	
First and further appeals. — From decrees ...	1882	561	1,019	481	1	1	39	28	4	19	8	274
" orders ...		63	83	55	2	2	44	18	...	20	15	143
Total ...	...	624	1,102	536	1	1	40	27	3	19	9	259
From decrees ...	1883	575	1,165	643	...	5	22	35	6	22	9	330
" orders ...		113	149	80	1	6	37	20	3	15	18	190
Total ...	...	688	1,314	723	...	5	24	4	6	21	10	359
Second appeals ... From decrees ...	1882	1,878	3,097	1,819	1	2	60	16	1	5	16	172
" orders ...		75	109	80	...	1	30	12	2	12	35	214
Total ...	...	1,953	3,206	1,899	1	2	59	16	1	4	17	173
From decrees ...	1883	2,055	3,349	2,302	...	3	47	16	2	5	27	252
" orders ...		70	107	72	...	4	50	17	...	7	22	207
Total ...	...	2,125	3,456	2,374	...	3	47	16	2	5	27	251
GRAND TOTAL ...	1882	2,577	4,308	2,435	...	2	55	18	2	8	15	193
	1883	2,813	4,770	3,097	...	3	42	20	3	9	23	276
Difference ...		+236	+362	+662	...	+1	-13	+2	+1	+1	+8	

97. There were altogether 462 more appeals for disposal last year than in the preceding year. The number disposed of exceeded the disposals of the previous year by 662. The result was that the pending file was reduced by just 200 cases during the year, the figures standing at the close of each year as under :—

Number for disposal and disposed of.

Year	Pending in Chambers.	Pending before a Divisional Bench.	Pending over three months	Pending more than a year.
1882	309	1,564	1,455	732
1883	318	1,355	1,259	238
Difference ...	+9	-209	-196	-494

In 1882 the number of cases pending before a Divisional Bench increased, owing to admissions being in excess of disposals; but last year, though the number admitted increased from 1,244 to 1,490, the number of cases awaiting disposal by a Bench was reduced by 209, and the number of cases pending over a year, which were all awaiting disposal by a Divisional Bench, by 494.

98. From a comparison of the results of appeals in 1882 and 1883, it will be seen that of first and further appeals 67 per cent. were unsuccessful in 1882 and 63 per cent last year, while in second appeals 78 per cent. failed in the earlier and 66 per cent in the later year. The greater degree of success obtained by appellants last year is principally due to the increase in the proportion of decisions by a Divisional Bench, cases not being admitted to such a Bench unless probable, or at least possible, grounds for interference are shown. The proportion of cases admitted to hearing before a Divisional Bench was 53 per cent. last year, having been 48 per cent. in the previous year. The large increase in the proportion of cases remanded for further investigation and fresh decision is principally due to it having been found necessary to remand a group of 164 tenancy cases from the Rohtak District In 27 per cent. of the cases disposed of by a single Judge in chambers, the files of the lower Courts were sent for and examined before the appeals were rejected, and the files of the lower Courts were examined in chambers in 39 per cent. of the appeals which were admitted during the year to a hearing before a Bench. The corresponding percentages of the previous year were 32 and 28 respectively. In 111, or not quite 7 per cent, of the 1,784 appeals which were decided by a Bench last year, the case had first to be remanded to the lower Court under Section 566 of the Code. The proportion of such remands in 1882 was 6 per cent In 21 cases objections were taken by respondents under the provisions of Section 561, and of these 8 were allowed. In the previous year 3 objections were taken, and 1 allowed.

Details of disposal.

The average duration of the civil appeals decided last year was 276 days, as against 193 days in 1882.

99. The annexed table gives particulars regarding the value and cost of the appeals which were decided during the year under report. The appeals have been divided into appeals connected with money or moveable property, and other appeals, as in the earlier sections of this Report. Appeals from orders, and transferred and re-admitted appeals, have been excluded as usual.

Average value and cost of appeals.

Scale of valuation.	Number of appeals: For money or moveable property	Number of appeals: In other suits.	Aggregate value of appeals: For money or moveable property	Aggregate value of appeals: In other suits.	Aggregate cost of appeals: For money or moveable property.	Aggregate cost of appeals: In other suits.	Average value of appeals: For money or moveable property			Average value of appeals: In other suits.			Average cost of appeals: For money or moveable property.			Average cost of appeals: In other suits.			Percentage of cost to value: For money or moveable property	Percentage of cost to value: In other suits.
			Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs.	A	P.	Rs.	A	P.	Rs.	A	P	Rs.	A	P		
Not exceeding ... Rs. 10	.	262	...	1,561	..	1,784	..	..		5	5	4	..	..	..	6	13	0	..	114
" ... 50		675		19,205	..	6,292	...			28	8	8	...	.		9	5	2	..	33
" ... 100	24	889	1,907	29 654	516	5 816		79	7	4	76	3	3	21	8	0	14	15	4	27	20
" ... 300	39	376	8 125	69 130	1,086	9 912		208	5	4	184	5	7	27	13	7	26	6	8	13	14
" ... 500	25	103	9,777	40,747	1,292	5,531		391	1	3	395	9	8	51	10	10	51	12	1	13	13
" ... 1,000	33	85	26,531	63,527	3,298	7,564		698	3	0	747	6	0	86	12	7	88	13	7	12	12
" ... 5,000	37	44	65,789	90 392	7,271	11,116		1,776	11	8	2,054	5	10	196	8	2	252	10	2	11	12
" ... 10 000	5	4	32,975	30,366	2,826	1,779		6,595	0	0	7,591	8	0	565	3	2	448	4	0	9	6
" ... 1,00,000	2	3	34,517	2,19 000	1,426	7,768		17,258	8	0	73,000	0	0	713	0	0	2,589	5	4	4	4
Exceeding 1,00 000	1	2	1,07,528	8,13,076	1,652	6 819		1,07,528	0	0	4,06,538	0	0	1,652	0	0	3.409	8	0	2	1
Appeals of which the value cannot be fixed.	..	*763	.	...	...	12,531		..	..	.	...			..	..	.	16	6	9	..	...
TOTAL ... 1883	171	2,795	2,87,099	18,76,718	19,367	76,705		1,678	15	1	708	14	8	113	4	1	28	5	9	7	5
TOTAL ... 1882	148	2,115	1,25,246	12,08,886	12,052	52,225		846	4	1	744	15	11	81	6	11	24	11	1	9	4

* Appeals connected with occupancy rights ... 336
" " " declaratory decrees ... 389
" " " custody of wives ... 38
Total ... 763

The average value of appeals in suits for money or moveable property has increased from Rs. 846 to Rs. 1,679. Last year three appeals of this description were decided in which the amount in dispute exceeded Rs. 10,000, whereas no appeal of so high a value was disposed of in the preceding year; moreover, the number of appeals of which the value was between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 5,000 was larger in 1883 than in 1882. The percentage of cost to value fell from 9 to 7. The average value of the appeals of other descriptions was rather lower than in the previous year, and the ratio of cost to value a little higher.

Applications for revision under Section 622, Civil Procedure Code.

100. It was shown in the Court's Report for 1882 that applications for revision had increased in five years from 153 to 531. The number filed last year was 707.

The figures below show the number of applications disposed of during the past and previous years, and the results to the applicants :—

		Number. 1882	Number. 1883	Percentage. 1882	Percentage. 1883
Rejected ...	Without calling for files ...	305	439	58	72
	After calling for files ...	52	72	10	12
Dismissed by a Bench	On default	2	2	...	...
	On the merits	58	30	11	5
Order of lower Court	Modified	4	4	1	1
	Reversed	31	18	6	3
Remanded for fresh decision		73	40	14	7

The figures show that the encouragement given to applicants by success is but small. In these cases, however, as in applications for criminal revision, the small chance of success does not deter applicants in this Province, and, as long as the law permits an unsuccessful litigant to have a last cast for success at a cost of only Rs. 2, applications will probably continue to increase.

During the year, 176 applications were admitted to a Bench—in 106 cases without the files being sent for, and in 70 cases after a Judge had examined the files of the lower Court in chambers.

Other civil business.

101. Other civil business disposed of by the Chief Court during the past two years is given below.

	1882	1883
Original matrimonial cases	...	2
Uncontested applications for probates and letters of administration	11	5
References under Section 17, Act IV of 1869 ...	1	...
References under Section 617 of the Civil Procedure Code	16	10
References under Section 46, Act I of 1879 ...	1	...
Applications for sanction to sale of land in execution of decree	38	80
Applications for review, for permission to appeal as a pauper, to stay execution of decrees, and other miscellaneous applications	490	538
Total ...	557	635

The increase in the number of applications for sanction to sell hereditary or joint-acquired property in land in execution of decrees is deserving of notice. The following statement shows the number of these applications received during the past five years, and the manner in which they were disposed of, either during the year of institution or in the next year:—

Year.	*Number of applications.*	*Sanctioned.*	*Sanction withheld.*	*Sanctioned conditionally or remanded for further enquiry.*
1879 ...	68	24	31	13
1880 ...	38	20	10	8
1881 ...	37	12	20	5
1882 ...	35	22	8	5
1883 ...	94	45	41	4—4 pending.

PART V.—GENERAL.

Service of processes.

102. The annexed statement gives the usual information regarding the service of processes during the past and previous years, and shows the establishment maintained in each district last year, and the income and expenditure :—

DISTRICTS.	*Establishment.*				*Number of processes issued.*			Value of stamps filed for process fees.	Expenditure.	REMARKS.
	Názirs.	Náib-Názirs.	European Bailiffs.	Peons.	Civil.	Criminal.	Revenue.	Rs	Rs.	
Delhi ...	1	6	1	66	29,156	2,303	1,292	11,267	6,376	
Gurgaon ...	1	3	...	22	13,522	1,370	2,781	3,911	2,335	
Karnál ...	1	4	...	42	16,895	1,761	1,210	4 559	3,762	
Hissar ...	1	1	...	24	11,660	973	3,738	3,496	2 023	
Rohtak ..	1	3	...	30	19 074	922	2,173	5 086	2,587	
Sirsa ...	1	*3	...	19	8,464	479	994	2,540	1,988	*One temporarily for three months
Umballa ...	1	9	1	100	50,947	4 404	4,099	13,215	8,820	†Includes 9 peons paid by Honorary Magistrates.
Ludhiána ...	1	6	...	†71	39,480	7,083	579	13,019	5 415	
Simla ...	1	1	1	16	7,196	608	..	2,230	2,208	
Jullundur ..	1	13	1	113	94,195	5,059	685	21,959	10,286	
Hoshiárpur ...	1	14	...	128	90,229	9,520	1,580	22 812	11,169	
Kángra ...	1	8	...	88	37,274	4,009	4,205	10,558	6,680	
Amritsar ...	1	10	1	127	82,099	4,345	1,578	21,379	10,794	
Gurdáspur ...	1	9	1	98	55,928	6,410	1,678	17,630	8,568	
Siálkot ...	1	11	...	103	68,161	6,382	1,862	18 227	7,708	
Lahore ...	1	11	1	123	81,796	4,853	3.247	22,741	12,181	
Gujránwála ...	1	6	...	80	45,551	5,216	2,389	12,889	6,746	
Ferozepore ..	1	6	...	73	53,250	4,203	647	11,663	6 276	
Rawalpindi ...	1	12	2	97	70,620	6,590	...	16 804	9,682	
Jhelum ...	1	7	1	60	31,940	3,365	3,638	8,320	5,750	
Gujrat ..	1	7	...	54	32,635	3,216	852	9,323	5,178	
Shahpur ...	1	4	...	56	36,994	2 608	754	9,769	4,628	
Mooltan ...	1	5	1	49	32,347	3,008	3,171	9,203	4,672	
Jhang ...	1	3	...	42	23,317	871	927	5,697	3,638	
Montgomery ...	1	2	...	35	20,497	614	901	5,281	2,914	
Muzaffargarh ...	1	4	...	60	26,995	1,409	4,004	7,861	4,962	
Dera Ismail Khan ...	1	5	...	69	24,025	1,772	3,353	6,529	5,511	
Dera Ghási Khan ..	1	4	...	72	30,248	2,792	4,468	9,810	5,679	
Bannu ...	1	5	.	34	25,555	1,607	4,358	6 803	3,381	
Peshâwar ...	1	6	1	58	27,704	1,609	2,662	7,841	5,623	
Hazára ...	1	2	...	32	12,252	3,070	1,766	3,949	2,804	
Kohát ...	1	2	...	20	9,747	1,080	2,363	2,533	1,726	
Total... 1883	32	187	12	2,061	1,209,153	103,406	67,954	3,28,884	1,82,090	
Total... 1882	32	175	12	2,064	1,118,310	98,890	82,278	3.21,076	1,81,616	

The increase in the number of Náib-Názirs is due to the addition of ten Munsiffs' Courts, each of which was allowed a Náib-Názir in accordance with the usual practice, and to an extra officer having been sanctioned for the Mooltan and Kohát Districts, which were found to require the assistance. The Umballa staff of peons was reduced by 15, and the Delhi staff by 3, while slight additions were made to the staffs of the Rohtak, Kángra, Dera Ismail Khan and Kohát Districts.

In the matter of work, the issue of civil processes exceeded, according to the returns, that of the previous year by 90,843, while criminal processes were 4,516 in excess, and revenue processes 14,324 below, the numbers of the preceding year. The reported increase of civil processes exceeds 8 per cent., and in the returns of some districts there are remarkable differences in both directions which have not been accounted for and need explanation. The Deputy Commissioners concerned will be addressed on the subject The differences under the head of revenue processes can only be accounted for, as similar differences were accounted for last year, by supposing that the returns are not accurate, or, if correct, that the rules regarding the service of revenue processes by the establishment of civil process-servers are not uniformly applied. Instructions were issued to district officers last year to make enquiry on both points, and pass such orders as might be necessary. The result of these instructions should appear in the returns for the year now in progress. The average number of processes issued to each peon during the year under report is returned as 670, as against 630 in the previous year. District averages range from 884 in Jullundur to 423 in Dera Ismail Khan.

The income of District Courts from process fees during 1883 exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 7,808, and the expenditure was Rs. 474 in excess of the expenditure in 1882. The increase of income is accounted for by the large increase in the number of civil processes issued last year. In regard to expenditure, more was paid to Názirs and Náib-Názirs and less to peons in the past than in the previous year, and Rs. 3,210 were spent in transmitting processes by post, under the orders contained in Government of India, Financial Department, Resolution No. 225, dated 12th April 1882, as against Rs. 1,427 in 1882, when the orders were only acted on for seven months. The sums spent on postage in the different districts vary from Rs. 317 in Rawalpindi to Rs. 15 in Dera Gházi Khan.

In Divisional Courts Rs. 4,782 were realized from process fees last year, and Rs. 2,004 were expended on establishments and postage. In the Chief Court Rs. 3,630 were realized, and no expenditure was incurred, except a small sum in postage Altogether, therefore, the net profit to Government from the service of processes was Rs. 1,53,202 last year, as compared with Rs. 1,44,177 in the preceding year. The expenditure did not exceed the income in any district in either year.

Fees for inspection of records.

103. The following table shows the fees paid by litigants for inspecting records in the subordinate Courts, the expenditure incurred in maintaining establishments to supervise the inspection of records, and the profit which was credited to the Record Office Fund after the adjustment of all charges :—

		Income derived from inspection fees.	Expenditure on establishment, &c.	Balance credited to the Record Office Fund.
		Rs.	Rs	Rs.
Divisional Courts	1882	2,505	2,018	487
	1883	2,956	2,393	563
Difference ...		+451	+375	+76
District Courts...	1882	10,963	3,863	7,100
	1883	9,654	4,178	5,476
Difference ...		−1,309	+315	−1,624

It will be seen that in District Courts the income from fees was considerably less than in the previous year, and the expenditure rather higher. The falling-off in income was, however, only as compared with the previous year. In 1881 the income from fees was Rs. 7,885, and the balance credited to the Record Office Fund Rs. 4,772.

Award of interest in decrees.

104. The award of interest after decree has been discussed in the section which deals with the disposal of suits. A more difficult matter to deal with is the award of interest in decrees, that is, in the sum substantively decreed. Instructions have been issued, for the guidance of Judicial Officers in this matter, in Judicial Circular No. XXIV, and in the case noted in the margin it was ruled that the absence of free consent on the part of the borrower might be presumed, under Section 114 of the Indian Evidence Act, from the bare facts of the borrower being a zamíndár, and the lender a village money-lender. It is to be feared, however, that Civil Courts are sometimes not as careful as they should be in dealing with claims which are largely, or sometimes even mostly, made up of interest. In cases in which a settlement is come to by the parties under Section 375 of the Civil Procedure Code, the Courts are helpless, for they must pass a decree in accordance with the lawful agreement of the parties; but in other cases the Court can exercise its discretion, and in such cases, even if the claim to interest is not specifically objected to, the Court should act in the spirit of the instructions which have been above referred to, and the superior Courts should make the most of such opportunities as are afforded them by appeals and inspection of records to see that they do so.

Punjab Record, Civil Judgment No. 110 of 1879.

I have, &c.,

T. GORDON WALKER,

Officiating Registrar, Chief Court, Punjab.

STATEMENT No. 1.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF JUDICIAL DIVISIONS AND THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS EXERCISING JURISDICTION IN CIVIL CASES IN THE PUNJAB ON THE LAST DAY OF THE YEAR 1883.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Class of Court.	Area.	Population.	Number of divisions for Courts under Chief Court but superior to Chief Courts of Districts.	Number of districts.	Number of sub-districts.	Number of Officers.		Total Number of cases decided.			
								Original.		Appeal.	
						European.	Native.	Regular.	Miscellaneous.	Regular.	Miscellaneous.
Honorary Courts	107,010 Square Miles	18,842,264	10	32	125	...	49	10,368	860	...	...
Paid Sub-Divisional Courts { Tahsíl ...						...	143	33,764	4,125	...	...
Paid Sub-Divisional Courts { Munsiffs ...						...	84	164,147	20,658	...	...
Small Cause Courts						13	...	21,882	1,620	...	...
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts						35	67	38,305	8,250	258	14
Chief Courts of Districts						46	9	4,135	3,866	14,482	792
Total ...						94	352	272,601	39,379	14,740	806
Divisional Courts						13	...	...	301	5,300	366
Chief Court						5	...	2	5	2,945	152
Grand Total ...						112	352	272,603	39,685	22,985	1,324

STATEMENT

PART

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF CIVIL

PUNJAB DURING

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	SUITS FOR MONEY OR MOVEABLE PROPERTY.											
	Contract in writing.											
CLASS OF COURT.	Registered.	Unregistered.	Contract not in writing.	On account stated.	Money had and received.	Goods sold.	Wages, work and materials.	Rent other than of land.	Moveable property or value thereof.	Damages.	Other suits for money or moveables not already mentioned.	Total.
Honorary Courts ...	143	2,874	2,264	1,724	99	207	88	88	546	230	485	8,750
Paid Sub-Divisional Courts — Tahsil ...	229	4,163	3,360	3,270	59	235	300	262	2,337	861	295	14,865
Paid Sub-Divisional Courts — Munsiffs	1,632	64,935	31,545	31,085	362	1,861	1,130	1,126	8,173	2,038	677	144,514
Small Cause Courts ...	116	6,410	3,225	3,479	109	4,401	1,420	1,091	634	180	88	21,153
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts ...	1,240	8,726	3,818	5,473	102	403	329	274	1,630	391	321	22,707
Chief Courts of Districts ...	218	713	166	591	27	22	16	18	88	30	22	1,906
Total ...	3,567	87,821	44,378	45,572	758	7,129	3,283	2,859	13,410	3,230	1,888	213,895
Divisional Courts ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chief Court ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grand Total ...	3,567	87,821	44,378	45,572	758	7,129	3,283	2,859	13,410	3,230	1,888	213,895

STATEMENT

31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
														OTHER
Suits for possession or recovery of immoveable property founded on														
CLASS OF COURT.	Contract.	Inheritance.	Gift.	Right of pre-emption.	River action.	Other cause.	Suits to recover possession of immoveable property under Section 9 of the Specific Relief Act.	Suits to compel specific performance of contract.	Suits for declaratory decrees under Chapter VI of the Specific Relief Act.	Other suits under the Specific Relief Act not expressly provided for.	Suits to declare or establish rights to real property, including pre-emption.	Suits to declare or establish personal rights.	Suits for an account other than an account for rent.	Suits relating to religious endowments.	Suits to set aside judgments, contracts or obligations on the ground of fraud.
Honorary Courts ...	87	100	1	8	...	336	24	9	4	12	40	8	2	2	9
Paid Sub-Divisional Courts — Tahsil ...	1,324	2,420	80	393	11	2,602	480	57	80	4	143	57	32	...	35
Paid Sub-Divisional Courts — Munsiffs	1,976	1,320	124	263	...	2,364	353	34	61	28	241	47	16	1	31
Small Cause Courts ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts ...	1,647	1,911	86	603	16	1,798	434	104	316	51	601	251	99	3	153
Chief Courts of Districts ...	198	267	39	134	2	75	45	32	43	8	62	41	16	...	37
Total ...	5,232	6,018	280	1,401	29	7,175	1,336	236	504	103	1,087	399	165	6	265
Divisional Courts ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chief Court ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grand Total ...	5,232	6,018	280	1,401	29	7,175	1,336	236	504	103	1,087	399	165	6	265

No. 2.

I.

ORIGINAL CASES INSTITUTED IN THE CIVIL COURTS OF THE THE YEAR 1883.

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
RENT SUITS AND SUITS UNDER THE PUNJAB TENANCY ACT.																
To recover arrears of rent from tenants without right of occupancy.	To recover arrears of rent from tenants with right of occupancy.	Damages for extortion or withholding receipts, or on account of illegal restraint or other cause.	For recovery of money or accounts from agents.	Suits under Section 5 by tenants for right of occupancy.	Suits to establish right of occupancy under Section 8 on other grounds than those mentioned in the previous Sections of the Act.	Suits under Section 6 by landlords for rebuttal of presumptive right of occupancy.	Suits under Sections 10 and 11 for enhancement of rent.	Suits under Section 14 for abatement.	Suits under Section 18 to set aside an award of division and appraisement of produce taken for rent.	Suits under clause 1 of Section 19 by landlords for ejectment of tenants with right of occupancy.	Suits under clause 2 of Section 19 by landlords for ejectment of tenants with right of occupancy.	Suits under Section 20 by landlords for ejectment of tenants without right of occupancy.	Suits under Section 25 by tenants to contest notice of ejectment.	Suits under Section 26 by tenants on account of illegal ejectment.	Other suits relating to questions of rent or tenancy.	Total.
155	20	8	...	...	4	3	7	...	...	3	5	2	...	...	11	198
3,395	777	54	9	148	49	12	642	8	16	21	33	253	431	94	154	6,096
1,814	380	6	7	132	11	10	256	...	10	1	...	3	288	40	71	3,029
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
689	193	10	4	315	76	49	231	7	8	15	38	37	383	55	73	2,183
31	21	...	1	32	10	5	63	2	1	3	...	8	2	2	...	181
6,064	1,391	78	21	627	150	79	1,199	17	35	43	76	303	1,104	191	309	11,687
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...
6,064	1,391	78	21	627	150	79	1,199	17	35	43	76	303	1,104	191	309	11,687

No. 2—(*concluded*).

46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61
SUITS.															
Suits relating to betrothals, marriage, divorce and dower															
Suits connected with betrothals.	Suits for enforcement of matrimonial rights.	Suits for dissolution of marriage.	Suits connected with dower.	Suits for or relating to partition.	Suits relating to the revenue.	Suits relating to shipping.	Suits relating to religion and caste.	Administration suits.	Inter-pleader suits.	Suits for dissolution of partnership.	Contested suits under Acts X of 1865 and V of 1881.	Any suits not included in the foregoing columns.	Total.	Grand Total.	Total number of suits shown in columns 2 to 7 which were brought by bankers or shopkeepers against agriculturists.
102	23	1	11	3	81	...	..	...	..	1	...	9	868	9,816	4,765
124	26	3	25	30	3,080	...	5	...	...	...	10	349	11,320	32,281	7,380
872	62	8	704	84	1,442	19	..	...	...	8	...	363	10,421	157,964	75,749
..	..	...	..	..	..	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	21,153	1,007
533	1,714	39	236	58	400	1	3	4	13	20	...	207	11,301	36,191	8,569
60	230	17	24	16	11	..	1	1	3	62	...	51	1,475	3,562	941
1,691	2,055	68	1,000	191	5,014	20	9	5	16	91	10	979	35,385	260,967	98,411
...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	1	...
1,691	2,055	69	1,000	191	5,014	20	9	5	16	91	10	979	35,386	260,968	98,411

STATEMENT No. 2.

PART II.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF MISCELLANEOUS CASES INSTITUTED IN THE CIVIL COURTS OF THE PUNJAB DURING THE YEAR 1883.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	UNDER THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE.											OTHER MISCELLANEOUS CASES.									
CLASS OF TRIBUNAL.	Plaints rejected or returned without registration.	Applications for the withdrawal or transfer of a suit or appeal.	Applications under Secs. 99, 108, 108, 558 and 560, for the restoration to the file of a suit, appeal or application for execution dismissed on default or decreed *ex-parte*.	Claims to, and objections to the attachment of, attached property under Secs. 278 and 487.	Complaints under Secs. 328, 332, 334 and 335, except when, in case of obstruction by a claimant in good faith, the case is under Sec. 331 to be registered as a suit.	Enquiries under Sec. 258, on the application of the judgment-debtor, as to payment to the decree-holder.	Applications under Sec. 401 for permission to sue as a pauper.	Applications under Section 592 for permission to appeal as a pauper.	Applications under Sec. 623 for review of judgment.	Proceedings under Secs. 174 and 643.	Total.	Cases regarding redemption and foreclosure of mortgages under Regulations I of 1798 and XVII of 1806.	Applications for certificates of guardianship of minors, or of administration of their property under Acts XL of 1858 and IX of 1861, and for the revocation of such certificates.	Applications regarding the care of lunatics' estates, and the guardianship of their persons, under Act XXXV of 1858.	Applications for certificates under Act XXVII of 1860.	*Uncontested* applications for probates and letters of administration under Acts X of 1865 and V of 1881	Other cases connected with the custody and disposal of intestate property.	Cases under Section 14 of the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879	Cases under the Land Acquisition Act, 1870	Miscellaneous cases not provided for in the foregoing columns.	Total.
Honorary Courts	42	5	350	340	2	5	10	...	95	...	849	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paid Sub-Divisional Courts { Tahsil ...	909	16	1,557	1,159	24	6	67	...	227	20	3,985	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Paid Sub-Divisional Courts { Munsiffs ...	2,315	519	7,884	8,038	68	362	372	...	859	90	20,507	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	49
Small Cause Courts	101	9	698	266	4	11	26	...	415	3	1,533	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts	1,738	56	2,219	2,951	5	78	693	1	405	14	8,160	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10
Chief Courts of Districts	314	100	365	323	...	2	147	26	193	1	1,471	1,409	375	9	525	30	19	...	...	22	2,389
TOTAL ...	5,419	705	13,073	13,077	103	464	1,315	27	2,194	128	36,505	1,409	375	9	525	30	19	...	...	86	2,453
Divisional Courts	177	...	46	...	...	...	...	41	25	...	289	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	14	...	17
Chief Court	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
GRAND TOTAL ...	5,596	705	13,119	13,077	103	464	1,315	68	2,219	128	36,794	1,409	375	9	525	34	19	3	14	86	2,474

STATEMENT No. 3.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER AND VALUE OF SUITS INSTITUTED IN THE CIVIL COURTS OF THE PUNJAB DURING THE YEAR 1883.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER AND VALUE OF SUITS INSTITUTED

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	NUMBER OF							
	Not exceeding Rs. 10				*Not exceeding Rs.* 50			
CLASS OF COURT.	For money or moveable property.	For land assessed or subject to assessment.	For other immoveable property.	Other suits.	For money or moveable property.	For land assessed or subject to assessment.	For other immoveable property.	Other suits.
Honorary Courts	2,692	105	61	118	4 719	115	104	176
Paid Sub-Divisional Courts ... Tahsil ...	4,828	2,778	659	3,126	7 104	2,837	1,005	3 723
Paid Sub-Divisional Courts ... Munsiffs ...	38,818	1,139	1,063	1,735	70,978	1,343	1,846	2,479
Small Cause Courts	6,686	...	..	..	9,655		...	..
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts ...	4,095	1,124	210	515	8,885	1,743	603	990
Chief Courts of Districts	193	41	1	9	373	103	18	66
Total ...	57,252	5,187	1,994	5,503	101,414	6,141	3,576	7,434
Divisional Courts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chief Court	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
GRAND TOTAL ...	57,252	5,187	1,994	5,503	101,414	6,141	3,576	7,434

STATEMENT

CLASS OF COURT.	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
	NUMBER OF SUITS															
	Not exceeding Rs. 5,000				*Not exceeding Rs.* 10,000				*Not exceeding Rs.* 1,00,000				*Exceeding Rs* 1,00,000			
	For money or moveable property.	For land assessed or subject to assessment.	For other immoveable property.	Other suits.	For money or moveable property.	For land assessed or subject to assessment.	For other immoveable property.	Other suits.	For money or moveable property.	For land assessed or subject to assessment.	For other immoveable property.	Other suits.	For money or moveable property.	For land assessed or subject to assessment.	For other immoveable property.	Other suits.
Honorary Courts	...	...	..	.	...	...	.	..	..	...	...	..	...	..	...	..
Paid Sub Divisional Courts ... Tahsil ...	...	...	..	.	...	...		.	...	...	.	.	...	...	.	
Paid Sub Divisional Courts ... Munsiffs ...	...	...	...	.	...	...	.	...	..	..	...		...	..	..	
Small Cause Courts	..	...	..		...	...	.	...	..	...	...	...		...	...	..
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts ..	372	108	49	34	21	1	3	2	...	1	...	..	..	...	..	..
Chief Courts of Districts	277	36	23	23	36	5	4	1	27	3	3	4	...	...	1	..
Total ...	649	144	66	57	57	6	7	3	27	4	3	4	..	...	1	..
Divisional Courts	...	.	...	.	...	...	..	..	...	...		.	...	...	..	..
Chief Court	...	...	..	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	.	...	...		.
GRAND TOTAL ...	649	144	66	57	57	6	7	3	27	4	3	4	...	...	1	...

No. 3.

IN THE CIVIL COURTS OF THE PUNJAB DURING THE YEAR 1883.

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
SUITS INSTITUTED.															
Not exceeding Rs. 100				*Not exceeding Rs.* 300				*Not exceeding Rs.* 500				*Not exceeding Rs.* 1,000			
For money or moveable property.	For land assessed or subject to assessment.	For other immoveable property.	Other suits.	For money or moveable property.	For land assessed or subject to assessment.	For other immoveable property.	Other suits.	For money or moveable property.	For land assessed or subject to assessment.	For other immoveable property.	Other suits.	For money or moveable property.	For land assessed or subject to assessment.	For other immoveable property.	Other suits.
858	66	67	62	458	29	25	50	21	1	9	13	2	1	...	...
1,912	934	269	688	1,021	526	124	368	...	5	1	...	...	...	...	...
21,405	536	695	982	13,313	357	343	572	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2,550	...	...	...	1,763	...	...	...	499	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3,783	1,000	370	540	2,880	855	399	525	2,103	443	225	286	928	239	110	82
202	67	23	22	233	177	28	42	119	99	19	27	446	98	26	32
30,710	2,603	1,424	2,294	19,668	1,944	919	1,557	2,742	548	254	326	1,376	338	136	114
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30,710	2,603	1,424	2,294	19,668	1,944	919	1,557	2,742	548	254	326	1,376	338	136	114

No. 3 (*concluded*).

42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
INSTITUTED—*concluded.*										
Suits of which the value cannot be fixed.			*Total.*				*Total value of Suits*			
For land assessed or subject to assessment.	For other immoveable property.	Other suits.	For money or moveable property.	For land assessed or subject to assessment.	For other immoveable property.	Other suits.	For money or moveable property.	For land assessed or subject to assessment.	For other immoveable property.	Other suits.
							Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
2	12	43	8,750	326	278	462	3,19,916	14,007	14,163	23,149
240	50	83	14,865	7,320	2,108	7,988	5,33,430	2,92,357	83,186	1,96,781
128	119	113	144,514	3,503	4,066	5,881	54,03,553	1,52,147	1,83,859	2,63,098
...	...	...	21,153	...	..	...	8,78,770	...	...	...
860	308	1,865	22,707	6,374	2,271	4,839	33,00,644	8,15,666	4,09,063	3,96,781
129	21	505	1,906	758	167	731	18,58,290	3,94,467	3,33,609	2,67,111
1,366	510	2,609	213,895	18,281	8,890	19,901	1,22,94,603	16,68,644	10,23,880	11,46,920
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
1,366	510	2,610	213,895	18,281	8,890	19,902	1,22,94,603	16,68,644	10,23,880	11,46,920

STATEMENT No. 4.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE GENERAL RESULT OF THE TRIAL OF CIVIL CASES IN THE COURTS OF ORIGINAL JURISDICTION IN THE PUNJAB IN THE YEAR 1883.

PART I.—CIVIL SUITS.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
CLASS OF COURT.	Total number of suits before the Courts.	NUMBER OF SUITS DISPOSED OF										Pending at the close of the year.	Number of cases pending more than 3 months at the close of the year.	Average duration of suits.		Average number of days the parties or either or any of them had to attend Court.
		Transferred.	Without trial.	Without contest.				On reference to arbitration		With contest				Contested.	Uncontested.	
				Compromised.	Decreed on confession.	Decreed ex-parte.	Dismissed ex-parte.	For plaintiff.	For defendant.	Judgment for plaintiff in whole or in part	Judgment for defendant.					
Honorary Courts	10,831	3	2,115	2,005	2,236	917	92	123	29	2,141	707	463	7	33	21	2
Paid Sub-Divisional Courts ... Tahsil ...	35,640	10	5,591	6,721	5,039	2,399	105	603	104	8,963	4,229	1,876	23	30	20	2
Paid Sub-Divisional Courts ... Munsiffs ...	173,458	4	33,425	39,914	28,208	15,024	550	1,280	217	33,299	12,226	9,311	85	30	21	2
Small Cause Courts	22,913	11	3,378	4,618	3,885	4,141	45	246	53	4,048	1,457	1,031	80	20	17	2
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts	41,373	14	7,795	5,329	4,966	2,923	104	687	172	10,870	5,445	3,068	243	42	28	3
Chief Courts of Districts	4,555	2	627	558	545	244	7	112	24	1,312	704	420	100	79	38	4
Total ...	288,770	44	52,931	59,145	44,879	25,648	903	3,051	599	60,633	24,768	16,169	538	33	21	3
Divisional Courts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chief Court	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	146	...	2
GRAND TOTAL ...	288,772	44	52,931	59,145	44,879	25,648	903	3,051	599	60,634	24,769	16,169	538	34	21	3

STATEMENT No. 4.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE GENERAL RESULT OF THE TRIAL OF CIVIL CASES IN THE COURTS OF ORIGINAL JURISDICTION IN THE PUNJAB DURING THE YEAR 1883.

PART II.—MISCELLANEOUS CASES.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Number of cases disposed of												Average duration of cases.		
				Without contest.				On reference to arbitration.		With contest						
Class of Court.	Total number of cases before the Courts	Transferred.	Without trial.	Compromised.	Decreed on confession.	Decreed ex-parte.	Dismissed ex-parte	For plaintiff.	For defendant.	Judgment for plaintiff in whole or in part.	Judgment for defendant.	Pending at the close of the year.	Number of cases pending more than three months at the close of the year.	Contested.	Uncontested	Average number of days the parties or either or any of them had to attend Court.
Honorary Courts	888	...	218	31	46	15	23	...	...	365	162	28	...	18	11	2
Paid Sub-Divisional Courts: Tahsil	4,239	...	1,380	214	123	34	19	10	3	1,466	876	114	...	16	9	2
Paid Sub-Divisional Courts: Munsiffs	21 731	...	5,181	902	640	272	100	10	3	8,806	4,744	1,073	6	18	13	2
Small Cause Courts	1,644	...	528	150	73	58	6	1	2	523	279	24	1	11	8	2
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts	8,642	1	2,782	295	277	160	77	10	2	2,934	1,712	392	6	19	10	2
Chief Courts of Districts	4,076	...	834	101	80	485	127	2	1	1 707	529	210	11	27	21	2
Total ...	41,220	1	10,923	1,693	1,239	1,024	352	33	11	15,801	8,302	1,841	24	18	12	2
Divisional Courts	306	...	57	1	...	...	194	...	...	40	9	5	3	50	4	1
Chief Court	6	.	.	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	112	2
GRAND TOTAL ...	41,532	1	10,980	1,694	1,239	1,029	546	33	11	15,841	8,311	1,847	27	18	12	2

STATEMENT No. 5

STATEMENT SHOWING THE BUSINESS OF THE CIVIL APPELLATE COURTS OF THE PUNJAB DURING THE YEAR 1883.

PART I.—APPEALS FROM DECREES.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
CLASS OF COURT.	Total number of appeals before the Court.	Transferred.	Summarily rejected.	Dismissed for default or otherwise not prosecuted.	*Heard ex-parte.*				*Contested.*				Pending.	Of these pending more than three months.	Average duration of appeals.	Objections under Section 561, Act X of 1877.	Objections allowed.
					Confirmed.	Modified.	Reversed.	Remanded.	Confirmed.	Modified.	Reversed.	Remanded.					
Appellate Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts	14,587	...	2,454	526	504	33	48	55	4,738	855	2,124	1,544	1,706	283	40	20	7
Chief Appellate Courts of Districts	2,246	...	332	109	167	7	16	18	565	132	338	175	387	174	27	2	1
TOTAL ...	16,833	...	2,786	635	671	40	64	73	5,303	987	2,462	1,719	2,093	457	38	22	8
Divisional Courts — Appeals from original decrees	5,217	1	482	189	40	3	11	5	1,930	297	763	331	1,275	682	92	16	9
Divisional Courts — Appeals from appellate decrees	1,671	...	199	57	16	1	5	1	583	64	247	85	413				
Chief Court — Appeals from original decrees	5	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	2	500	...	...
Chief Court — Appeals from appellate decrees	4,509	15	1,231	86	30	4	10	27	557	82	250	650	1,567	1,183	280	21	8
GRAND TOTAL ...	28,335	16	4,698	967	757	48	90	106	8,373	1,430	3,712	2,788	5,350	2,324	82	59	24

PART II.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Appellate Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts	730	...	125	27	40	1	17	11	192	18	115	129	55	5	31	...	...
Chief Appellate Courts of Districts	148	...	19	5	16	...	1	2	36	2	28	22	17	...	23	...	...
Total ...	878	...	144	32	56	1	18	13	228	20	143	151	72	5	28	..	...
Divisional Courts — Appeals from original orders	355	3	70	15	13	1	4	2	90	3	68	22	64	22	87	...	...
Divisional Courts — Appeals from appellate orders	80	...	9	7	6	...	...	...	33	4	12	4	5				
Chief Court — Appeals from original orders	61	1	12	4	1	...	...	1	8	...	3	8	23	18	216	...	...
Chief Court — Appeals from appellate orders	195	...	54	4	1	...	3	...	18	2	11	21	81	56	192	...	...
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,569	4	289	62	77	2	25	16	377	29	237	206	245	96	56	...	...

STATEMENT No. 6.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE RESULT OF PROCEEDINGS ON APPLICATIONS FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE DECREES OF THE CIVIL COURTS IN THE PUNJAB IN THE YEAR 1883.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
CLASS OF COURT.	Total number of applications to execute decrees for disposal.	Applications disposed of: By transfer under Section 223.	Satisfaction obtained in full: Through the Court.	Satisfaction obtained in full: Under Section 258.	Satisfaction obtained in part: Through the Court.	Satisfaction obtained in part: Under Section 258.	Wholly infructuous.	Pending at the close of the year.	Pending over three months.	Pending over six months.	Realizations in decrees for money. Amount realized: Without issue of coercive process.	After issue but without execution of process.	With the issue of process.	Number of applications: On which processes were issued but not executed.	On which the judgment-debtor was arrested but released without imprisonment.	On which the judgment-debtor was imprisoned.	On which moveable property: Was attached but subsequently released.	Was sold.	On which: Immoveable property was attached but subsequently released.	Hereditary or joint-acquired property in land was sold.	Other immoveable property was sold.	Action was taken under Section 305 of Section 326, Civil Procedure Code.	On which possession was given: Of moveable property.	Of immoveable property.	On which specific performance was enforced.	On which partition was effected.	On which execution was otherwise effected.
											Rs.	Rs.	Rs.														
Honorary Courts ...	4,963	25	1,486	452	997	82	1,493	428	50	20	3,561	9,397	71,137	863	231	14	1,500	325	138	...	53	22	9	158	5	2	...
Paid Sub-Divisional Courts { Tahsil ..	20,717	24	8,107	347	3,922	170	6,492	1,655	107	46	24,105	44,649	2,26,30[illegible]	3,27[illegible]	650	74	6,087	1,297	638	...	197	11	41	1,971	23	27	10
Paid Sub-Divisional Courts { Munsiffs	119,356	436	30,063	1,064	26,184	926	47,315	13,368	1,208	589	81,484	2,39,844	11,46,096	24,607	4,509	525	31,353	6,659	4,146	...	1,211	471	132	2,041	20	45	10
Small Cause Courts ...	13,751	333	3,217	1,019	3,318	1,086	4,016	762	179	132	75,268	83,911	86,151	3,994	1,607	120	1,273	414	...	...	...	...	16	...	5	...	...
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts	34,993	122	9,868	218	6,438	148	14,021	4,178	558	400	1,14,979	1,58,409	8,53,438	4,600	1,382	363	6,483	2,821	1,345	3	673	242	106	2,135	72	50	32
Chief Courts of Districts	3,725	21	939	68	860	30	1,218	589	83	56	69,794	40,208	3,99,909	771	151	71	711	245	147	5	63	7	14	159	11	5	5
TOTAL ...	197,505	961	53,680	3,168	41,719	2,442	74,555	20,980	2,185	1,243	3,69,191	5,26,418	27,83,029	38,109	8,524	1,167	47,407	11,761	6,414	8	2,197	754	318	6,464	136	129	62

STATEMENT No. 7.

PROCEEDINGS IN INSOLVENCY UNDER CHAPTER XX OF THE CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE IN THE PUNJAB DURING THE YEAR 1883.

PART I.—SHOWING THE NUMBER AND RESULT OF APPLICATIONS UNDER SECTION 344 AND THE NUMBER OF INSOLVENTS BEFORE THE COURT.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	APPLICATIONS FOR A DECLARATION OF INSOLVENCY.															PERSONS DECLARED TO BE INSOLVENTS.								
	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH.						APPLICATIONS DISPOSED OF.									NUMBER OF INSOLVENTS BEFORE THE COURT.						DISPOSED OF.		
		Filed during the year							*Granted.*		*Rejected.*											*Discharged*		
		By judgment-debtors																						
CLASS OF COURT.	Pending at the close of the previous year.	Under arrest or imprisonment.	Not under arrest or imprisonment.	By decree-holders.	Received by transfer from other districts.	Total.	Transferred to other districts.	Withdrawn or otherwise not prosecuted.	A receiver being appointed.	A receiver not being appointed.	Penal proceedings under Section 359 not being taken.	Sentence of imprisonment being passed under Section 357.	Applicant being sent to the Magistrate to be dealt with.	Total.	Pending at the close of the year.	Pending at the close of the previous year.	Declared to be insolvents during the year.	Received by transfer.	Total.	Transferred.	Died.	Under Section 351.	Under Section 355.	Remaining at the close of the year.
Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts specially empowered	24	21	107	1	...	153	...	37	21	25	45	...	...	128	25	11	46	...	57	...	...	25	9	23
Chief Courts of Districts	50	64	214	...	...	328	...	101	45	34	68	18	...	266	62	27	83	...	110	...	...	38	39	33
TOTAL ...	74	85	321	1	...	481	...	138	66	59	113	18	...	394	87	38	129	...	167	...	...	63	48	56

STATEMENT No. 7.

PROCEEDINGS IN INSOLVENCY UNDER CHAPTER XX OF THE CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE IN THE PUNJAB DURING THE YEAR 1883.

PART II.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF ESTATES IN THE HANDS OF RECEIVERS AND THE PROGRESS MADE IN WINDING UP.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Number of insolvents' Estates in the hands of receivers.				*Amount of creditors' claims dealt with during the year.*					*Amount of insolvents' Estates realized and outstanding.*			
CLASS OF COURT.	Pending at the close of the previous year.	Placed in charge of a receiver during the year.	Number of estates in regard to which proceedings were finally closed during the year.	Pending at the close of the year.	Unsatisfied and pending at the close of the year.	Admitted.	Disallowed.	Satisfied.	Unsatisfied and pending at the close of the year.	Amount of realized assets in the hands of receivers at the close of the previous year.	Gross amount realized during the year.	Total amount of disbursements.	Amount remaining in the hands of receivers at the close of the year.
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts specially empowered	13	21	10	24	76,770	69,445	71,683	38,211	78,279	14,158	26,490	36,927	3,721
Chief Courts of Districts	27	45	20	52	2,16,764	96,716	29,415	24,962	2,83,013	9,588	34,039	19,440	24,187
TOTAL ...	40	66	30	76	2,93,534	1,66,161	1,01,098	63,173	3,61,292	23,746	60,529	56,367	27,908

STATEMENT No. 8.

STATEMENT SHOWING USE OF ASSESSORS IN THE CIVIL COURTS OF THE PUNJAB IN THE YEAR 1883.

1	2	3	4	5	6
			ASSESSORS TRIALS.		
				Number of cases in which Judge differed from	
CLASS OF COURT.	Established or average number of assessors in each case.	Number of cases tried with assessors.	Number of cases in which Judge agreed with assessors.	One assessor.	Both assessors.
Divisional Courts acting under Act X of 1870	2	11	5	2	1